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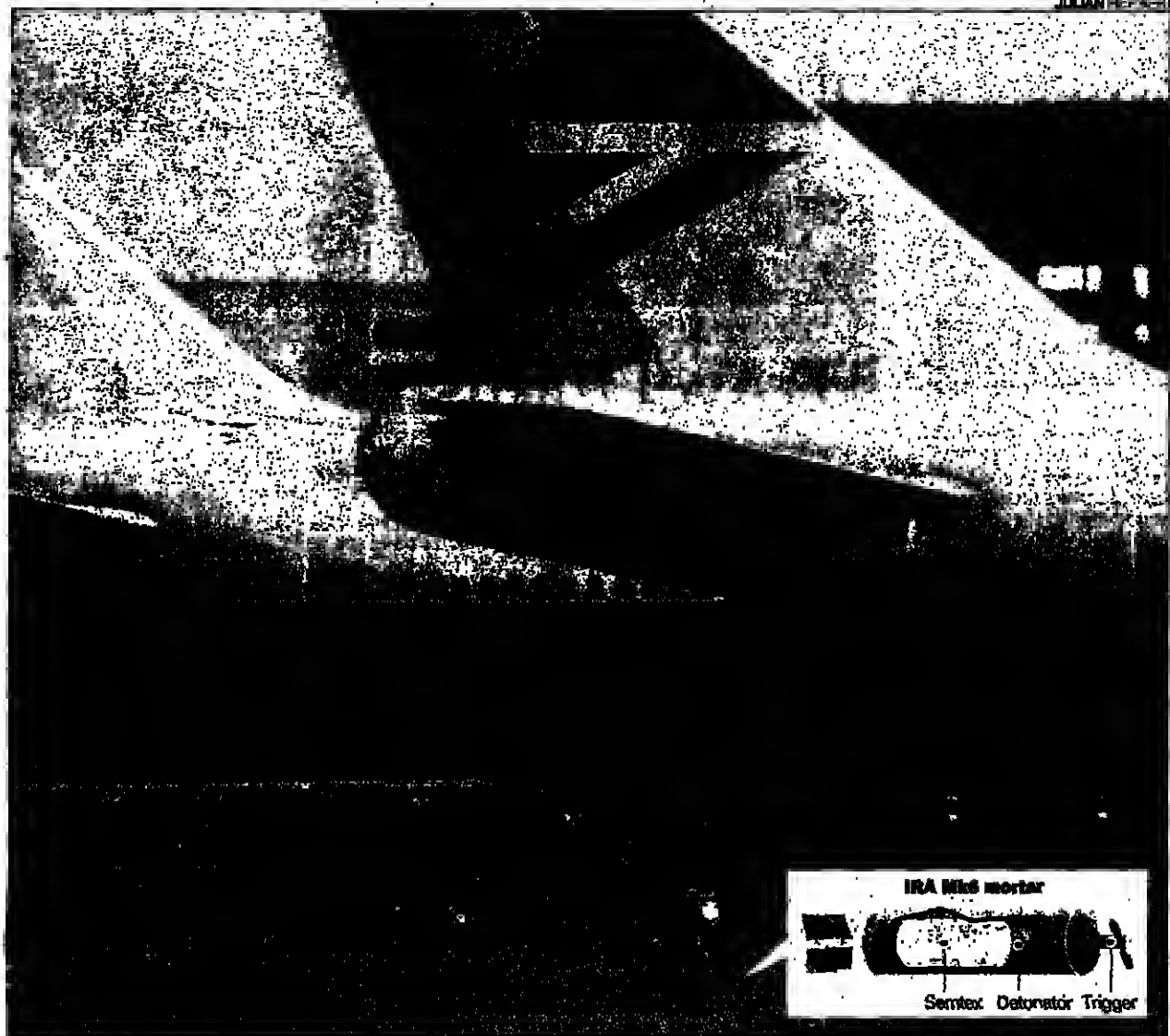
No. 64,901 MONDAY MARCH 14 1994

IRA target Gatwick after third attack on Heathrow

By Philip Webster, Stewart Tindler and Emma Wilkins

THE Government refused yesterday to hand the IRA the propaganda coup of putting tanks on the roads around Heathrow, despite a third mortar strike on the airport in less a week.

Four bombs were fired into the airport at 8am after a series of warnings to media offices between 6.19 and 6.41. The bombs again failed to explode, but one landed on the roof of Terminal 4, which was crowded with thousands of



Police prepare to collect one of the mortar bombs which fell a few yards from a British Airways jet at Heathrow

passengers. Three hit the tarmac about 50 or 60 yards from 15 waiting aircraft. The southern runway had to be closed at a time of peak weekend flights.

In a fresh alert last night, police received further coded warnings of attacks on Heathrow and Gatwick. Gatwick was closed from 7pm and all flights in and out of Heathrow were suspended from just after 7.30. The perimeter roads around Heathrow were also closed.

After advice from Scotland Yard and urgent consultations in Whitehall, ministers decided against full-scale military intervention. They yielded solely to Scotland Yard requests for a score of army explosives experts. Last night the engineers joined the search of hundreds of acres around Heathrow amid fears that more mortars could be hidden.

The mortar launcher used in yesterday morning's attack was buried on scrubland on the southern edge of the airport and so well concealed with a covering of turf and

twigs that it was missed by police searches.

Of the 15 aircraft waiting on the Terminal 4 apron, four had just arrived when the mortars landed and their passengers were disembarking. Three other planes were about to depart.

Two planes well away from the area where the mortars came down were allowed to proceed to take-off. The third, a Boeing 737 BA 428 destined

for Amsterdam, was nearer the point of impact — although still more than 100 yards away — and was forced to abort its take-off. The 18 passengers on board were led off.

Another mortar landed so close to an empty British Airways Boeing 737, which was being towed by a "tug" vehicle, that the driver saw a puff of smoke and took evasive action by changing direction.

Last night the IRA army

council made clear that its violent campaign would continue until it won concessions over the Downing Street declaration. However, in its most detailed analysis this year of the Ulster peace initiative, the IRA hinted that it was encouraged by the peace process.

After the attack the Prime Minister and senior Cabinet members conferred with Scotland Yard and Whitehall officials. They turned down

demands by MPs for tanks and armoured cars to patrol British airports. The Prime Minister ruled that the police should be given whatever help they deemed necessary but he is understood to share the view voiced by Paul Condon, the Commissioner of Metropolitan police, that tank patrols would not have helped to deter yesterday's attack, which had been set up in advance.

He said that he had not

asked for military patrols because there were already substantial police patrols and road blocks around Heathrow. He said that the police were not facing audacious terrorists coming back night after night to thwart the security services, but "cowards who have secreted bombs and then shunk away into the night leaving timed devices".

Asked if the fact that the 12 shells had failed to explode meant that the attacks were merely a propaganda effort, Mr Condon said that all were potentially viable, contained explosives and could have detonated. He said that it was sheer speculation why they had failed to go off or what motivation lay behind the lack of an explosion.

Commander David Tucker, head of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch, said that there could be more devices hidden around the airport, primed to explode. "The terrorist has the upper hand here and tactics could change."

After the two midweek attacks, police stepped up security but hundreds of officers using dogs and horses failed to find the launch site, which was buried 70 yards from the southern perimeter fence near Bedford Road.

The base-plate may have been planted at the same time as the other eight mortars — possibly on Tuesday — and buried between three to four feet into the ground. The terrorists had replaced turf and covered the site with pieces of wood.

Mr Tucker said: "This had been very carefully camouflaged and a thorough search on Saturday failed to find the base-plate. One could have almost walked over the top. There could be other base-plates here and our searching

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Defence chief resigns over affair with wife of ex-minister

By Philip Webster and Michael Evans

BRITAIN'S top military officer resigned last night over an affair with the ex-wife of a former Conservative navy minister.

Sir Peter Harding, Chief of the Defence Staff, left his £112,000 a year post after an exchange of letters during the afternoon with Malcolm Rifkind, the Defence Secretary. Sir Peter said he had not acted "in a manner that befits the holder of the post of Chief of the Defence Staff".

It is another embarrassment for the government, only just recovering from a series of scandals involving ministers and MPs that have severely undermined John Major's back-to-basics crusade. It will also be a severe blow to the armed services. Sir Peter's astute political acumen, recently helped to persuade the Cabinet to send more British troops to Bosnia.

Sir Peter decided to go after the publication of intimate details of his relationship with Lady Bienvenida Pérez-Blanco appeared in the *News of the World*. Sir Peter Inge, Chief of the General Staff, will take over on a caretaker basis and he is expected to succeed Sir Peter.

David Clark, the shadow defence secretary, said last night: "This man knew all our military secrets and one must

be absolutely certain that there have been no lapses in our security."

Sir Peter, 60, who has four children with his wife Sheila, had been exposed by his former mistress, who is 32. She is the former wife of Sir Antony Buck, 65, who retired from the House of Commons at the last general election. He married Mrs Pérez-Blanco in 1990. The marriage broke up last September.

She co-operated with reporters and photographers from the newspaper in setting up an assignation at the Dorchester Hotel in London last week.

The newspaper quoted extensively from Sir Peter's love letters to her and claimed that the defence chief used his government limousine to meet her, frequently dismissing the armed chauffeur. The newspaper also claimed that Sir Peter had been so infatuated that he broke "every security rule in the book".

The former Lady Buck, who was Sir Antony's second wife, has now remarried to an art dealer. She was quoted in yesterday's *News of the World* as saying that her affair with Sir Peter had been "the most immense security risk", but claimed that Sir Peter had told her he loved the risk of it.



Sir Peter Harding and his lover, Bienvenida Pérez-Blanco, outside the Dorchester Hotel

Man in the news, page 2

Women praise 'a wonderful day'

By Robin Young

THERE were prayers for unity and warnings of schism to come as church-goers yesterday packed the first Holy Communion services to be held legally by women priests of the Church of England.

The Archdeacon of York, the Venerable George Austin, claimed that between 500 and 1,000 clergy would leave the church over the issue. He told the BBC *Breakfast with Frost* programme: "I think that has not gone home yet to the authorities. They think there is still a schism about it, but my evidence is that about that number will go."

The Reverend Angela Berners-Wilson, 39, the first of the group of 32 to be ordained in

Bristol Cathedral on Saturday, celebrated communion for the first time yesterday at St Paul's, Clifton, and was hugged by members of her congregation after the service.

Mrs Berners-Wilson, a senior chaplain at Bristol University, said: "We had been looking forward to this day for so long, and now it has happened. It is a wonderful moment for everyone."

Another of the new priests, the Reverend Glenys Mills, 55, of Christ's Church, Clifton, who also celebrated communion yesterday, said she thought the church's wounds would heal.

"Our role in the ministry has been more and more accepted over the last few years. I think we should now be as one and agree to differ."

The Right Reverend Mark Santer, Bishop of Birmingham, said that women priests would not become a permanent obstacle to closer links between the Church of England and Rome.



One of the first women priests, the Rev Angela Berners-Wilson, celebrating communion in Bristol

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Turkey Lira 1.80; USA \$3.00.

Pretoria deposes homeland chief

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

PRETORIA took direct control of the black homeland of Bophuthatswana and deposed the president yesterday after the murder of three white extreme right wingers.

And at Umtali, near Durban, violence erupted when thousands of supporters of the mainly Zulu Inkatha Freedom Party armed with rifles and spears occupied a stadium to prevent the African National Congress from holding a mass meeting.

One Inkatha supporter was killed when he opened fire on the ANC crowd from a pick-up truck. He was pulled from his vehicle and stabbed. The truck was set alight.

In Bophuthatswana, Tjaard van der Walt, the South African ambassador, deposed Lucas Mangope, 70, as President, ending at a stroke one of the legacies of apartheid: the separate homeland of the Tswana people. Mr Mangope, who had allied himself with the white far

right and sparked the rebellion by refusing to take part in next month's election, was placed under guard at his farm "for his own safety".

The South African takeover of the homeland, whose independence was recognised only by Pretoria, came after a visit by "Pik" Botha, the South African Foreign Minister. Mr Botha told Mr Mangope his government was no longer in control of events.

Nelson Mandela, president of the African National Congress, welcomed the takeover, saying: "Mangope belongs to the past." Mr Mandela will visit the former homeland tomorrow.

Rowan Cronje, the homeland's Defence Minister, said Mr Mangope intended to fight the election under the banner of the North Western Christian Democratic Party, which had been surreptitiously registered.

Right in disarray, page 10

I made mistakes, says Hillary Clinton

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

HILLARY Clinton has broken her silence on Whitewater to acknowledge that she made mistakes. But the First Lady insists that she and President Clinton never intended to do anything wrong.

Mrs Clinton said she found continuing speculation about the death of Vincent Foster, her long-time colleague and

close friend, "extremely painful." She told *Newsweek* magazine: "Clearly there were lots of mis-steps along the way. I'd be the first to say that — and obviously I wish there weren't because this thing has gotten blown so out of proportion."

Her decision to speak coincided with new polls showing the standing of both Clintons is being damaged. Mrs Clinton was closely involved in the Whitewater investment plan.

She represented the failed Madison Guaranty Savings and Loan Association whose owner, James McDougal, was the Clintons' Whitewater partner. Later, she reportedly resisted giving Whitewater files to federal investigators.

Mrs Clinton now regrets ever venturing into land speculation. She said: "I never would have participated in the investment in the first place. I would have tried to

get everybody to focus on it sooner and earlier to try to deal with it. Of course I made mistakes."

Mrs Clinton told *Time* magazine her other "big mistake" was not appreciating how others would view the matter. The Clintons had always intended to make good on such obligations as paying

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Five die as three cars crash at crossroads

Five people were killed and a boy aged 5 was critically injured after three cars crashed on the A39 near Wells, Somerset. A man and three women, all believed to be in their early twenties, were killed instantly and a girl aged about 18 died later in Bristol Royal Infirmary. The boy has head injuries, and a woman aged 39 suffered a neck injury and broken legs. Both were taken to the Royal United Hospital in Bath after being cut from the wreckage.

A witness said two women in a Rover 200 car were cut free by emergency crews but both died. Three other people in a Renault Fuego were killed in the accident at a crossroads near a public house. No one was hurt in the third vehicle, which ran into the wreckage. The road was closed for several hours and police were last night still waiting to release names.

Gang attacks hunt

A fox hunt follower was allegedly beaten unconscious by a gang of masked hunt saboteurs. Francis Trewin, a retired farmer, is still being treated in hospital in Truro. Three other people taking part in the Fourburrow hunt near Scorrier House, Redruth, were also treated in hospital. Twenty-one people have been arrested and released on bail.

New hunt for toddler

The family of Ben Needham, the Sheffield toddler who vanished from the Aegean island of Kos more than two years ago, has returned in an attempt to break down the silence that South Yorkshire police believe surrounds his disappearance. His mother Kerry, 72, and the British vice-consul will meet the Kos police chief tomorrow.

Bernard leaves hospital

Jeffrey Bernard left hospital yesterday after a leg amputation. Drinking vodka and orange as he waited for a lift home from the Middlesex Hospital, he vowed to continue as near as possible as before. "I shall battle on and have as much fun as I can doing it. My cop is always half-full, out half-empty." The writer and Soho raconteur, right, who is a diabetic, had suffered a foot infection that had spread.



Waste export irks clergy

The Archbishop of York, Dr John Habgood, and seven bishops are calling on the Government to ban the export of toxic wastes to the developing world and Eastern Europe. Exporting wastes to countries too poor to deal with the environmental pollution and health risks of hazardous materials is irresponsible, the churchmen say.

Hailsham queries Scott

Lord Hailsham has said that Lord Justice Scott, who is conducting the arms-to-Iraq enquiry, should have "refreshed his memory a little" on the use of so-called gagging orders. The former Lord Chancellor says on BBC's *Panorama* tonight: "I have an uneasy feeling that the law has not been properly studied by some members of the enquiry."

Military explosives experts to sweep Heathrow for hidden mortars

Security chiefs reject calls to bring in Army patrols

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE military option — calling in the Army to patrol the Heathrow perimeter — was considered in detail yesterday after the third IRA mortar attack and ruled out.

The security authorities believe that the solution lies in effective intelligence gathering not in saturation troop deployments.

Yesterday's announcement that the Army's explosives ordnance disposal experts are to be brought in to help in the search for more mortars underlined the limitations faced by the security forces.

The Army's EOD experts have gained unique experience in search techniques in Northern Ireland. Since the Ulster-based 321 EOD Squadron, Royal Logistics Corps, was formed in 1971, it has dealt with about 5,200 terrorist devices containing more than 236,000 pounds of explosives. Twenty men have been killed and many have won gallantry awards.

While their contribution could be important, their involvement indicates that a mass army presence at Heathrow was not thought practical.

Although Army units are always available and are sometimes seen at Heathrow during joint police and troop exercises, security sources yesterday emphasised the difficulties of mounting a more permanent patrol by soldiers. The sources said that a battalion of about 650-700 soldiers would be needed to set up vehicle checkpoints around the huge airport perimeter.

Since the threat is from a "stand-off" attack — mortar bombs fired from up to 1,000 yards away — the checkpoints could only be random. A comprehensive show of force around the centre of the airport in what the Army calls "framework patrols" would require too many soldiers. Random checkpoints and

framework patrols together would act as a deterrent to the IRA. However, the impact on the traffic leading to Heathrow would be so disruptive that the whole area could grind to a halt.

The Army would also suffer. One battalion on patrol for, say, four months, would require two other battalions to be earmarked for Heathrow duty on rotation, one to prepare for the operation, the other to be "warned off" and brought back from an existing role.

Army chiefs, faced with an increased troop commitment in Bosnia and the involve-

ment in Northern Ireland, would oppose any permanent use of soldiers at Heathrow.

Security sources also stressed that a show of military strength at Heathrow could be countered by the IRA simply by switching operations to another airport.

There are no easy technological solutions. Cymeline mortar-locating radars which were recently sent to Sarajevo, could pinpoint the launch sites after the mortars had been fired. But since they are on timing devices, the equipment would not be able to help to find IRA bombers.

The dilemma for ministers is that public confidence has been shaken and there is pressure to send in the troops as a morale booster.

The answer, however, lies in a far less overt response. If future IRA "spectaculars" are to be prevented, Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, may have to seek more resources from the Treasury to boost intelligence-gathering operations. Much of MI5's budget is devoted to intelligence-gathering against the IRA but manpower is limited.



The scene at Heathrow's Terminal 1 yesterday after thousands of Terminal 4 passengers were diverted there

Travel industry fears 'CNN effect'

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT AND BEN MACINTYRE

FEARS were growing last night that the continuing IRA mortar attacks on Heathrow airport could wreck the recovery in Britain's travel and tourism industry.

Airlines, hotels, theatres and tour operators will today be watching for signs of mass cancellations by foreign visitors and British holidaymakers.

Nowhere will any trend be more carefully monitored than in North America, where holidaymakers are notorious for the wholesale cancellation of travel plans at the first hint of violence.

American travel agents are already predicting that their tourists will avoid coming to Britain. "We call it the CNN

TOURISM

effect," said Shawn Flaherty, a spokeswoman for the American Travel Industry Association in Washington. "People see violence on television and then decide to go elsewhere."

The first attack at Heathrow went largely unreported in America. The second provoked a flurry of news reports pointing out that the airport is the port of arrival for the vast majority of Americans visiting Britain.

Travel agents said yesterday the third attack could persuade many American travellers that Europe, and Britain in particular, is a dangerous holiday destination.

In the wake of the New York World Trade Centre

bombing trial and the recent shooting on Brooklyn Bridge of a group of Hasidic students by a Lebanese gunman, Americans are acutely aware of the dangers of international terrorism. Although the mortar attacks caused no casualties, industry analysts predict that American tourist traffic to the UK will slow markedly in the coming weeks.

Ms Flaherty compared the attacks on Heathrow to the situation in Egypt, where a wave of terrorist attacks directed at foreign tourists by Islamic fundamentalists has sharply reduced tourism. "We may see the same sort of thing happening to Britain now," she said.

International airlines rely heavily on income from American travellers and

around one third of British Airways' income comes from its services to 19 US cities.

Tour operators throughout America have just launched a big British sales campaign and were reporting a surge in enquiries and early bookings with short breaks proving particularly popular.

The trend was so strong that many believed that the 1985 record number of 3.8 million visitors from North America would be surpassed.

The world's airlines are losing money at an alarming rate, and trans-Atlantic traffic is particularly important for American airlines which are among the "biggest" losers. They had been encouraged by the recent upsurge in strong bookings. Now, they fear, these encouraging figures could slump.

Man in the news

Pilot rewrote Buggins' rule to head the defence forces

BY ROBIN YOUNG AND MICHAEL EVANS

SIR Peter Harding, a tall, debonair and affable figure, worked his way up to be the head of Britain's defence forces from the ranks.

He joined the RAF in 1952 at the age of 19, trained as a pilot and was so devoted to the service that colleagues described him as "the sort of man who even sleeps in light blue pyjamas".

He became an instructor at Cranwell in 1957 and was attached to the Royal Australian Air Force between 1960 and 1962. Seconded to the Ministry of Defence in 1963, he later became commanding officer of the 18th Squadron.

In 1973, he was made aide-de-camp to the Queen. He was knighted 11 years ago and in 1992, at the age of 58, while his love affair with Lady Buck was at its height, he was appointed Chief of the Defence

Staff and head of all three armed services. He was preferred for the appointment to Admiral Sir Julian Oswald, the Chief of Naval Staff, and thus succeeded in breaking the Buggins' turn rules of succession which had usually meant previously that the services took turns to fill the nation's top military job.

Sir Peter, it was said at the time, had the edge over the quiet and scholarly naval candidate because of his "unique blend" of experience in key jobs in senior Nato and MoD appointments.

Although dubbed the "Toys 'R' Us" candidate by the other services, because of his keenness that the RAF should have the lion's share of the procurement budget, Sir Peter had the advantage of having served as assistant chief of staff for plans and policy for the Su-

preme Allied Commander in Europe in the early 1980s, and having been Commander-in-Chief of United Kingdom Air Forces from 1985 until 1988, when he became Chief of the Air Staff.

With his imposing frame and easy manner, Sir Peter was regarded as a natural operator in the politics of Nato, and he enjoyed particular popularity in Russia, where on an ice-breaking trip with the then Defence Secretary, Tom King, he jumped on stage to join a Soviet jazz band and was applauded by Russian generals for his piano playing.

That visit, two years before the announcement that he was to be next Chief of Defence Staff, was felt to have been instrumental in confirming Sir Peter as the most likely candidate for the post.

It included one incident in which he was able to show his charm and diplomatic skill. At Kubinka airbase, outside Moscow, a female parachute display team landed in front of the British delegation, and their leader, seeing the tall, uniformed figure, saluted and addressed him as "comrade defence minister". Sir Peter smiled, and tactfully introduced her to Mr King.

Sir Peter listed his interests in *Who's Who* as "tennis, painoforte, bridge, birdwatching and shooting (normally separately)".

Brief letters confirm decision to resign

COPIES of Sir Peter's letter of resignation to Malcolm Rifkind, the Defence Secretary's reply, were issued last night by the MoD.

Sir Peter wrote: "You will have seen the news reports concerning me and Lady Buck. The content of these reports is not entirely right and there are some errors in them, but it is counterproductive to relate them in detail. The point is that I have not acted in a manner that befits the holder of the post of Chief of the Defence Staff. I therefore believe that the only honourable thing for me to do is to resign my post with immediate effect, and I ask you to accept this."

I deeply regret the embarrassment that this has caused for you, the Government, my colleagues, and the Services, and I am grateful for your support over the last 15 months, which has been considerable."

In reply, Mr Rifkind said: "I am very saddened that recent circumstances have led you to reach this decision; but I understand and respect your wishes. May I pay tribute to the many years of dedicated service that you have given to the Royal Air Force and the Armed Forces. In your earlier career, as Chief of the Air Staff, and again as Chief of the Defence Staff, you have exhibited professionalism, energy and skill of a very high order."

"I very much regret that we will no longer have the benefit of your advice and judgment. I know that you feel that your resignation is in the best interests of the Royal Air Force and the Armed Forces and that is, if I may say so, characteristic of the loyalty and commitment you have always given to your colleagues."

"May I offer you and Sheila my very best wishes for the future."

Clinton mistake admitted

Continued from page 1
property taxes on the land deal. When they discovered the taxes were underpaid, they corrected the error. "So, yes, we made lots of mistakes. But we didn't do anything wrong. We never intended to do anything wrong. We did the best we could, always, to be as straightforward on this as we could, based on what we knew. But for years we have been asked questions that we don't know the answers to."

In *Newsweek*, Mrs Clinton puts some of the blame on her "big thing" about privacy. "I get my back up every so often about even having to answer questions that I don't think are in any way connected with the fact that my husband is in public life," she said.

Mrs Clinton said she wanted all the speculation about Mr Foster's death ended. "But I guess I now understand why, in the face of a tragedy, some people will make up their own answer because they can't deal with what are often life's unanswerable mysteries."

In a new poll, *Newsweek* found 52 per cent think the Administration is covering up damaging information about Whitewater, and 64 per cent think the Clintons are guilty of some offence.

Conspiracy theories, page 8

MONDAY

The Monday essay has been held over because of pressure on space.

When it comes to **HUNTING** **MUSLIM ROOMS**, I have the **ININGS** of a prehistoric man.

Antonio Carlesio, Proprietor of the Neal Street Restaurant, White, C. Carlesio since 1984.

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after third terrorist attack in five days threatens to wreck recovery of Britain's tourist trade

Why the IRA's 12 mortar bombs failed to explode

By STEWART TENDLER AND RICHARD FORD

THE 12 IRA mortar bombs fired at Heathrow airport during the past five days failed to explode because of a mechanical fault, Scotland Yard said last night. The failure raises the intriguing possibility that an informer within the terrorists' ranks had tampered with them.

One other suggestion was that the malfunction was a deliberate ploy, intended to give the IRA maximum propaganda with none of the revulsion caused by casualties. Had a correctly armed mortar bomb hit the fuselage of a plane, it would have caused a huge explosion. A bomb detonating on the terminal building would have ripped the roof apart, scattering shrapnel and debris.

A senior RUC officer said: "The Provos are piddling about. If they really wanted to cause death and destruction, they could do it. It's second nature to them. What they are doing at Heathrow is hinting at the potential. They're having a good laugh, and keeping morale high back here in Belfast."

"Killing maybe five people and causing ... damage would cause such revulsion. I don't think the IRA could

handle that at this particular time, but this is easy. Nobody is at risk — not even their own people — but the publicity they're getting is great. It embarrasses all the security agencies, makes the Government cringe and, better still, keeps the pressure on John Major."

Weapons experts were examining the shells last night after Scotland Yard said that they were viable but faulty. The makeshift mortars had

been put in position on Tuesday or Wednesday of last week, at the same time as those fired on Wednesday and Thursday. All had been fitted with timing devices. In the past the IRA has used video timers that last for a month, which raises the possibility of further attacks at Heathrow during the next three weeks.

Commander David Tucker, head of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad, gave no explanation as to why none of the mortars exploded, and refused to comment on speculation they were launched solely for propaganda purposes, not to cause real damage. He said: "I

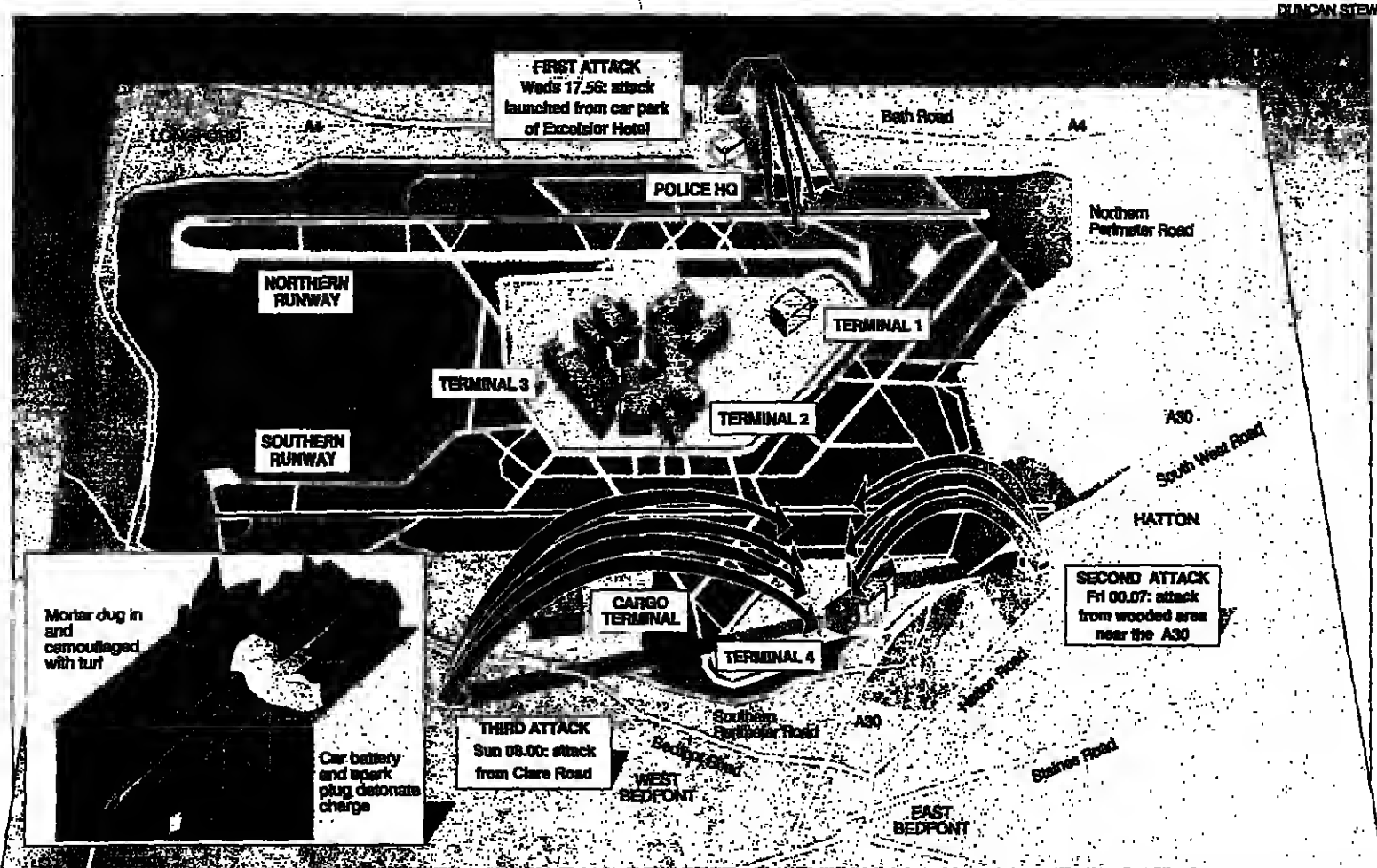
think I can help you by saying there appears to be a consistent mechanical defect."

One reason why the mortars failed to detonate could be a malfunction in a fuse intended to cause an explosion on impact.

The mortars fired yesterday were packed with up to 1lb of Semtex each. Usually the IRA packs gas cylinders with a mixture of home-made material based on fertiliser and commercial explosive. The makeshift mortar is then inserted into a steel frame on the back of a vehicle or placed in a deep hole.

The care the terrorists took in mounting the latest attacks was shown by the extensive measures they took to conceal the mortar's launcher. They dug a deep hole on waste ground and set the timer running with battery power. The base-plate and mortars were then placed in the hole with the tube and covered with turf.

Senior police officers believe the mortars were placed at different sites around the airport on Tuesday or Wednesday



day but the planning and reconnaissance would have taken weeks.

Some of the parts for the mortars have been smuggled across the Irish Sea, probably by small boats. Other equipment was probably bought in Britain and the Semtex could have been taken from caches stockpiled here.

The IRA technicians who built the mortars must have

used a workshop or garage within the London area. The Nissan car stolen for the first attack would have been kept undercover while its number plates were changed and the mortar built into it.

The care with which the third mortar was hidden suggests it may have been the work of men and women with experience of terrorism in the countryside outside Belfast.

possibly in south Aramagh. The IRA units have become adept at hiding mines and bombs to trap army patrols.

Although Heathrow airport has been the scene of annual counter-terrorist exercises since the 1970s, few planners within the army, Scotland Yard or Whitehall could have envisaged the scenario played out in the past week.

Not content with one "stand-

off" attack from beyond the airport perimeter, active service units have laid siege to the runways with a ring of mortars in a series of attacks on the same target. Usually in Britain, the IRA has switched from target to target and from method to method.

There have been no large IRA attacks on the mainland since December and MIS and the Yard have recently ex-

pressed concern in private that the IRA has used the lull created by the peace process to regroup and restock should a ceasefire not emerge. The security forces had warned recently that the IRA was preparing to mount a spectacular attack in Britain after known activists were reported to have gone missing from their haunts in Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic.



The site of the latest mortar attack on Heathrow. None of the bombs exploded

Adams to challenge visit ban

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

GERRY ADAMS, the Sinn Féin leader, is to challenge the Government in the courts over his exclusion from Britain.

With the backing of Liberty, the civil rights pressure group, he is seeking leave to bring judicial review proceedings over the exclusion order imposed last October when invited to speak in London.

Andrew Puddaephatt, Liberty's general secretary, said: "Liberty unequivocally con-

demns the use of violence and does not believe that violence can solve the conflict in Northern Ireland. But exclusion orders are an ineffective way of fighting terrorism. They damage Britain's international reputation and violate international human rights law."

He said that if Mr Adams had committed an offence, he should be brought before a court. "Otherwise, as a leader of a legal political party, he should be free to travel and be questioned as rigorously as any other politician."

Republican chiefs face both ways

By NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE IRA made clear last night that its violence would continue until it won concessions on the Downing Street declaration, but hinted that it was encouraged by the peace process.

In a statement issued in Dublin after the latest mortar attack on Heathrow airport, the IRA army council said: "There is a responsibility on the British Government to move from its current negative stance." It said that since the December declaration, the Government had refused to build on the opportunities for peace. This contrasted with the IRA's "positive and flexible attitude". The statement said: "The continued opportunity for peace should not be squandered. There is an urgent need to refocus attention and to move the peace process forward."

The army council ended with the warning: "Our commitment and our unity of purpose remain steadfast."

The statement was an attempt to scotch rumours of a split between Gerry Adams, the president of Sinn Féin, and elements of the IRA. It reiterated Mr Adams's de-

mand for talks with the British Government to clarify the declaration while holding out hopes of progress.

An observer in Dublin said yesterday that the statement and the attacks on Heathrow showed the IRA wanted to negotiate with the British Government, but only from a position of strength. "It was probably no mistake that none of the devices went off," he said. "The attacks were designed to show that the IRA is still in business and could

cause massive loss of life if they wanted to."

He added: "If they call a ceasefire they want that to be seen as an act of strength with the message that they could easily resume their campaign."

However, the observer said that Mr Adams and Martin McGuinness, another Sinn Féin leader, did not have the whole movement behind them. "If they accepted the declaration prematurely they could lose many of their supporters."

Third bomb attack on Heathrow

Continued from page 1
methods are now the subject of urgent consideration."

As the clamour for a stronger campaign against the IRA rose, Mr Major and Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, held talks at Downing Street last night where Mr Major was hosting a dinner for the Prince of Wales.

They were debating whether to offer a Commons statement this afternoon. The Government has resisted pre-

vious statements to avoid giving the IRA publicity.

Some ministers believe that the need to reassure people at home and abroad should lead to a change of policy. Mr Rifkind said yesterday that the Government would use "the full rigours of the security forces to combat terrorism in all its manifestations."

Conservative demands for a tougher response were led by Sir Ivan Lawrence, chairman of the all-party home affairs

select committee. He said that people would be reassured by army movements around the airport.

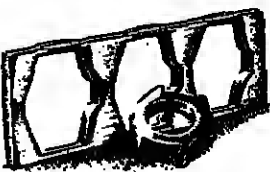
Yesterday's attack has added to doubts over the future of the Downing Street declaration. In a newspaper interview, Mr Major said that the IRA was dishonest. He suspected that the attacks on Heathrow were designed to "reinforce the unity of the movement in some perverse and irrational way."

Professor George Bass has been called the father of marine archaeology.

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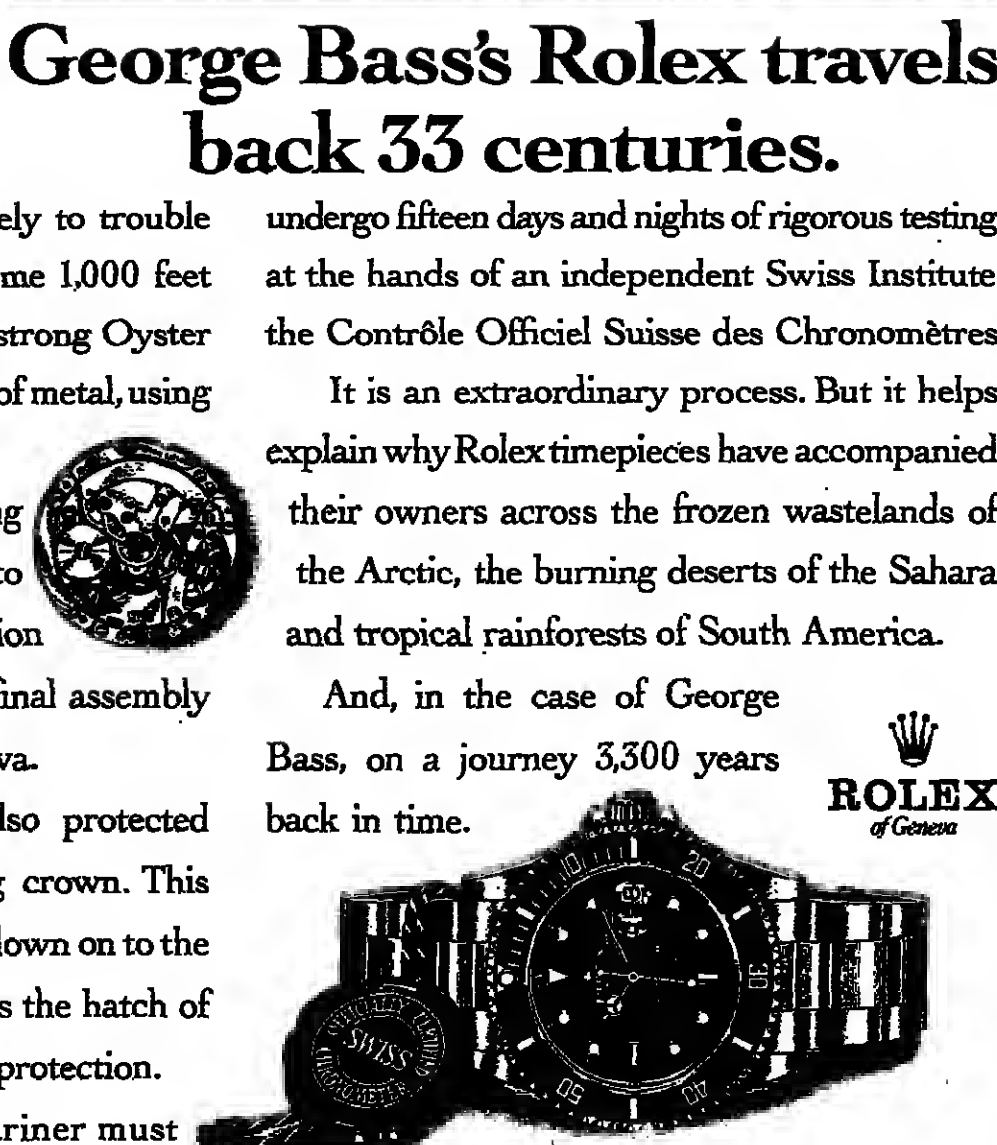
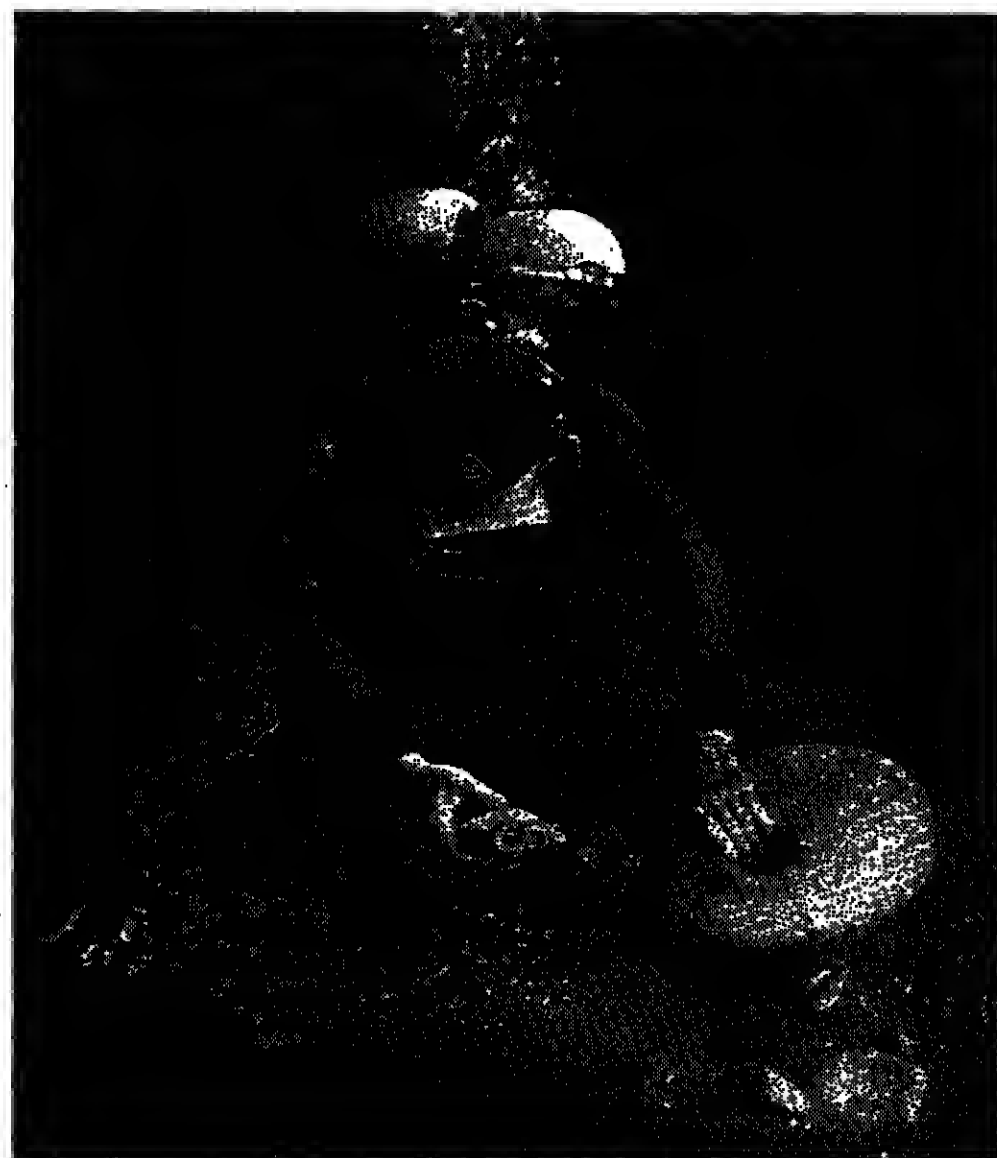
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First women priests rush to celebrate communion

A black and white photograph showing a large group of people, including a priest in the foreground, gathered in front of a church building. The priest is wearing a white cassock and a dark stole, and is smiling. He is surrounded by many other people, some of whom are also smiling. The church building in the background has Gothic-style architecture with pointed arch windows. The image is high-contrast and grainy.

Orthodoxy is sacrificed on the altar of feminism

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Major urged to stand firm in EU vote dispute

By Philip Webster and George Brock

JOHN Major and Douglas Hurd are trying to prevent a fresh dispute between Britain and her European partners from developing into a Maastricht-style split in the Conservative Party.

After a weekend of high-level diplomacy designed to explore the scope for compromise over voting rights, the Prime Minister, Foreign Secretary and other senior ministers will today decide the negotiating line to be taken by Mr Hurd at a crucial meeting of European Union foreign ministers tomorrow.

Mr Major is being warned against a retreat in the battle to maintain Britain's power to block unwelcome Brussels legislation.

Last night, it looked as though he intended to stand firm against any weakening of Britain's powers — even if it risked a crisis within the EU that could threaten the admission of Austria, Norway, Finland and Sweden.

Britain is ready to consider changes in the voting rules required after the arrival of the four new members, but Mr Major is said to be adamant that the existing bias against countries with the largest populations, such as Britain, must not be allowed to worsen.

In Whitehall yesterday, it was being suggested that the Greek presidency of the EU might be forced to call an emergency summit.

William Cash (C Stafford), the leading Euro-sceptic, said

that to give in would be "an immense act of appeasement". He said: "We want to unite behind the Government and give it every possible encouragement to stand firm."

Under existing EU rules, the so-called "blocking minority" is 23 votes out of the total of 76 distributed between the EU's 12 members. Britain has 10 votes and, with help from another big country and one small three-vote member, it can block directives it finds objectionable.

After enlargement, it is proposed that the blocking vote should rise to 27 votes out of a

new total of 90, which would mean that two of the larger countries could, together, no longer stop a directive.

At least three possible compromises are being advanced, all of which could be presented by Britain as holding firm. One is to allow 23 to remain as the blocking formula if the figure includes two of the four large nations — Britain, Germany, France and Italy.

Another is for the blocking figure to be lower than 27 if the total population of the countries involved is more than 100 million.

A third, much favoured by the Euro-sceptics, is to post-

pone any changes until the post-Maastricht inter-governmental conference in 1996.

The problem for Mr Major and Mr Hurd is that a failure to compromise could delay the very enlargement of the EU that they have so strongly advocated. The European Parliament is saying that if the UK fails to accept the new voting plan, it will use its powers to bar new members. Euro-sceptic MPs say the Government should call the Parliament's bluff.

Mr Major stands accused by his EU partners of pursuing a contradictory policy of

vantage which will be repeated in the Maastricht review conference in 1996.

Abstruse calculations about the size of a blocking minority conceal an emerging power struggle between the EU's large and small states. The present voting system used for some EU social policy and environmental law, research and development money and — eventually — decisions on a single currency, is weighed in favour of smaller states. It is no accident that the strongest advocates of the system being adjusted for new members by simple mathematical logic are Belgium and The Netherlands. Britain and Spain, similar in size but sharing few other interests, want the development of the system arrested until at least 1996 to protect the leverage of the larger states.

The outcome this week will inevitably influence the bigger decisions of 1996.

If the changes went through, the EU as a whole would have accepted the premise that greater notice should be taken of the size of a state's population. The way would be open for Germany (80 million citizens) to claim more votes than Britain or France (55 million apiece), Germany, Britain, France and Italy currently hold 10 votes.

Politicians have barely begun to consider what will happen to majorities and minorities when the EU heads towards 20 or more member states next century.

“To give in would be an immense act of appeasement. We want to unite behind the Government”



Major accused Clarke of "an engaging outburst of frankness and candour"

Candid Clarke's ambitions bring minor show of pique

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

JOHN Major acknowledged the leadership ambitions of Kenneth Clarke yesterday in remarks that suggested his impatience at the way cabinet colleagues have allowed speculation about his future.

The Prime Minister said that the Chancellor of the Exchequer was "suffering from an engaging outburst of frankness and candour" in stating that he would be a leadership contender in the future.

Mr Clarke said in a newspaper interview last week that

he would like to be a contender, "but at a time of John Major's choosing".

There was irritation among Mr Major's close circle that the Chancellor had, probably unwittingly, given another boost to the speculation they were hoping would die away.

Mr Major, interviewed in the *Sunday Express*, said: "Ken works closely with me. He is a good friend and I have no doubt at all that when Ken says he would like to be Prime Minister he speaks the truth."

"Neither do I think he speaks anything other than the truth when he says he would like to be Prime Minister only after I have retired, which he expects to be at some stage in the future."

"I think he is suffering from an engaging outburst of frankness and candour."

Mr Major's words echo the irritation of some of his colleagues at the occasionally incautious words of Mr Clarke.

At the same time, Michael Heseltine declined to rule out the possibility of ever becoming Prime Minister. The Board of Trade President, whose stock has again risen among Tory MPs, declared

that there were "no circumstances in which I would ever stand against John Major".

Interviewed on *A Week In Politics* on Channel 4, he said: "John Major is going to lead us into the next election and people know my forecast is that we shall win with a majority of 60."

Offered the chance of ruling out any leadership hopes, he said: "I am not using those words because nobody knows what the absolute extreme and unforeseen circumstances can be."

Mr Major, meanwhile, said he was "pretty unmoved" by talk of leadership challenges. "I have lived through them for the last two years. It has not affected what I think or what I do or how I handled the Government in those two years."

Referring to criticisms that he was not assertive enough, he said: "I am what I am and I do shout and bang the table, but I do it in private. I do not see any need to do it in public."

He added: "It is often the quiet voice that stills the storm and the loud voice just adds to the cacophony."

Peter Riddell, page 14

Tories to crack down on seaside dole hotels

By A Staff Reporter

THE Government is to crack down on hotels that advertise for people on the dole to spend the summer at the seaside, the Prime Minister announced yesterday.

In future, hotels that wished to convert to hostels would need to get planning permission first. "It will let local people decide and I think their views will be pretty crisp," he told the *Sunday Express*.

The Prime Minister, talking about social security fraud, said: "We are announcing plans to tackle another area of abuse — hostels dealing in benefit tourism. Small hotels have been advertising specifically to attract benefit claimants."

"It gives the hotel or hostel a guaranteed income from housing benefit but it tends to change the character of the area and gives rise to huge complaints. We are also looking at licensing existing hostels and closing them down if they have poor standards."

David Curry, planning minister, told *The World This Weekend* on Radio 4: "What is happening at present is that you can convert your seaside hotel to a hostel which then houses benefit claimants without any form of authorisation. We are saying that it is reasonable for the local planning committee to be able to take a decision and to decide that it does not want to go any further down that road."

The move was backed by Sir Teddy Taylor, Tory MP for Southend East, who said the town had suffered from a "nightmare of problems caused by drugs and petty crime. It is ridiculous that planning controls do not give councils any real decision-making role on how many of these conversions there should be."

But Frank Field, the Labour chairman of the all-party Commons Social Security Select Committee, said the move would not work. He said there was a huge amount of accommodation in resorts with few users in the off-peak periods, and that seaside landlords and landladies would still be filling places with people on benefit.

Leader launches campaign strategy

Activists promote a party in unison

By Our Political Correspondent

THE Liberal Democrat faithful left Cardiff last night with a song in their hearts as they set out on the most critical campaigning period outside a general election.

For the first time, Paddy Ashdown's party bowed out of their spring conference on a lyrical, rather than oratorical, upbeat note. It was a conference intended to create a pleasurable harmony rather than a memorable masterpiece.

Throughout the two-day conference, however, Liberal Democrats were searching more urgently for a theme to promote in their campaign territories in the five parliamentary bye-elections, European parliamentary elections, and in the elections for the hundreds of metropolitan and district council seats.

The party chose consistency as the theme to link all the campaigns. Speeches emphasised the need for activists to reinforce fundamental policies without being distracted by "a hundred days of heavy shelling", which Charles Kennedy, the party president, predicted would come from their opponents.

The conference was dominated by the issues of inner cities. The urban policy paper sat alongside homelessness, lone parenting, prostitution, and the election campaigns in the metropolitan districts, where the party sees its greatest chance of success.

Ashdown puts education first

By Arthur Leathley, Political Correspondent

PADDY Ashdown moved to seize the initiative on education yesterday, making the issue a cornerstone of Liberal Democrat strategy.

In a shift of Liberal Democrat campaign tactics, education will be promoted as central to party ideology, as Mr Ashdown seeks a subject that can be readily identified with Liberal Democrat beliefs.

Mr Ashdown drew yesterday on his tour of Britain, during which he met voters from many walks of life, and which has convinced him that his party needs to retain close links with the community by asserting its authority on such an important issue.

Addressing his party's spring conference in Cardiff yesterday, he pointed to the forthcoming parliamentary bye-elections and the elections for the European parliament and local councils. He said an important element of the campaign to rebuild public faith in politics would be to rebuild

trust over taxation. Referring to the "diet of lies and slippery half-truths about tax", Mr Ashdown said his party would by contrast continue to tell people exactly where their money would be spent.

"We are right to seek new ways of earmarking taxes so people can have more say in tax and spending decisions. And above all, we are right to insist that taxation is fair."

The party leadership is worried that the public is not sufficiently aware of the party's objectives, in spite of the electoral successes of the past year. Mr Ashdown said: "What Liberal Democrats stand for, above all else, is the development of Britain's greatest single natural resource, our people." He said investment in education "is at the core of all our policies".

The pledge announced before the 1992 general election to add a penny to the basic rate of income tax to pay for education was seen as highly successful, and yesterday the Liberal Democrat leader did not rule out extending the plan to other areas of spending.

Education, Mr Ashdown said, "is the most important ladder of all. It extends the range of choices open to each individual."

Senior party figures have voiced some concern that Mr Ashdown has become closely identified with the issue of Bosnia, over which he has taken a prominent stance. They believe that he needs to focus attention on an important domestic issue to bring added support to the party.

It points out that merely raising the basic pension to its 1977 level relative to earnings would cost taxpayers £4.5 billion a year and would benefit better off pensioners most. Increased means testing is rejected because of "problems of stigma, low take-up and disincentives to save".

The report, by Paul Johnson of the Institute for Fiscal Studies, is certain to provoke further fierce debate within the party.

Ashdown: "Insist that taxation is fair"

Labour told to rethink pensions

JOHN Smith will be urged today to carry out "a radical rethink of pensions policy" to improve the living standards of poor pensioners (Jonathan Prynn writes).

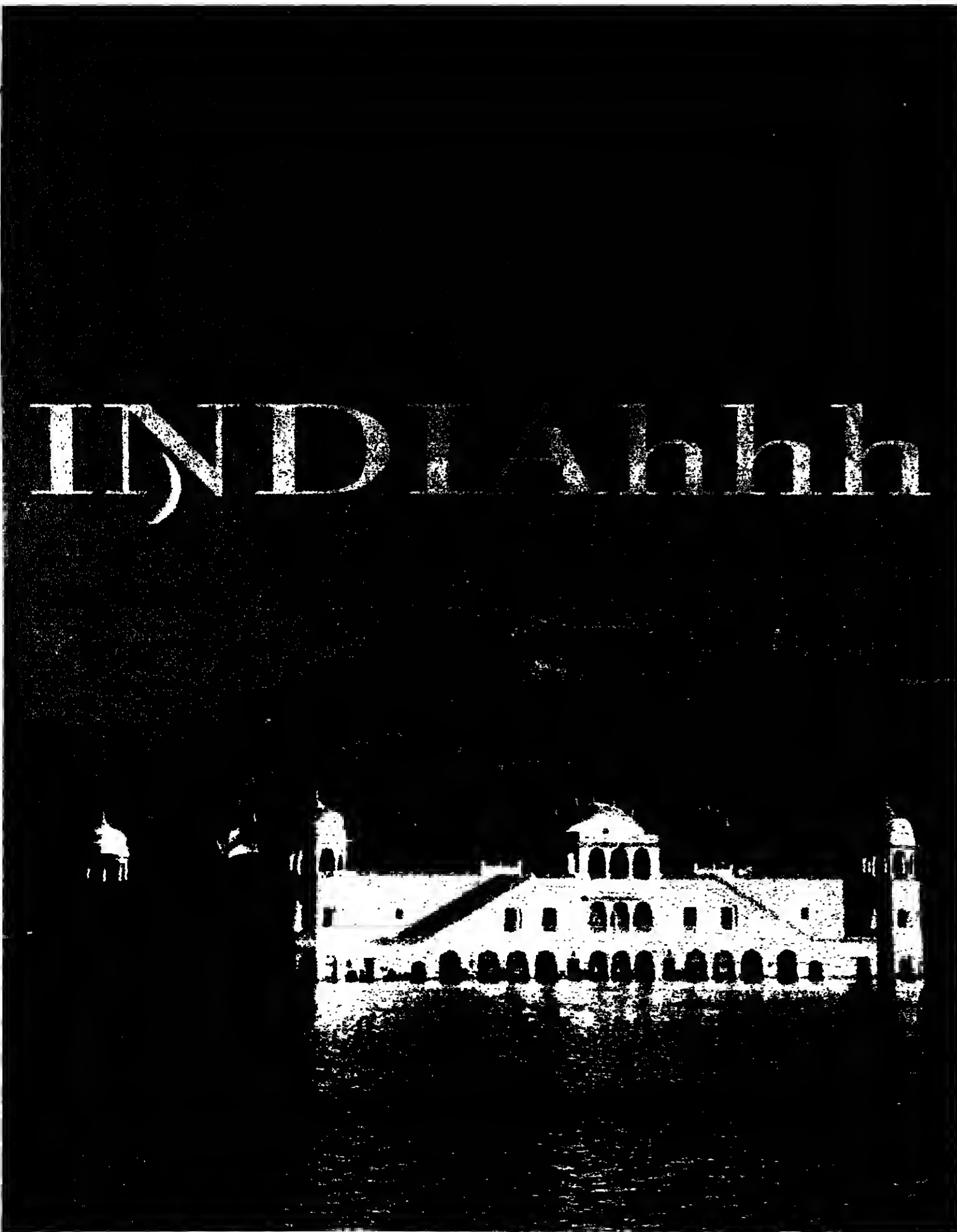
The call comes in a discussion paper from the Commission on Social Justice, set up by the Labour Leader after the last election to consider the future of the welfare state. The commission, chaired by Sir Gordon Borrie, is to publish its final report in the autumn.

The *Pensions Dilemma* rejects across-the-board increases in the state pension as a long-term option, instead outlining possible reforms aimed at securing a minimum income for all pensioners. "Neither raising the basic state

pension nor increasing means-testing — the traditional policies of left and right — are sufficient to help pensioners out of poverty today or provide security in old age for the next century," it says.

It points out that merely raising the basic pension to its 1977 level relative to earnings would cost taxpayers £4.5 billion a year and would benefit better off pensioners most. Increased means testing is rejected because of "problems of stigma, low take-up and disincentives to save".

The report, by Paul Johnson of the Institute for Fiscal Studies, is certain to provoke further fierce debate within the party.



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Tories to crack down on seaside dole hotels

Lawyers face bill for shoddy service under Bar reforms

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

BARRISTERS who provide a shoddy service could be ordered to pay compensation to aggrieved clients under a radical reorganisation of the Bar's complaints machinery to be proposed next month.

At the same time, chambers will be expected to publicise the fees barristers charge and to explain how they are calculated. Barristers could also face penalties for returning briefs at the last minute, when they are double-booked.

The reforms are part of a fundamental overhaul of the Bar's standards being carried out by a group of lawyers and laymen under Lord Alexander of Weeden QC, chairman of National Westminster Bank and a former Bar chairman.

Their draft report, expected early in April, is aimed at ending the image of the Bar as an aloof profession in which clients have no redress against poor service and complaints are dealt with behind closed doors. It is hoped to make the Bar more user-friendly, with clients' needs put first and barristers made accountable for poor performance.

Among the main proposals expected are: compensation for complaints involving shoddy work; tribunal hearings dealing with complaints of professional misconduct to be opened to the public; chambers to set up internal complaints systems; barristers to publicise fees; judges to take an active role in reporting on poor performance or time-wasting in court; fees for legal aid work to be related to performance in court; "best practice" standards to be issued covering such matters as how quickly briefs should be returned; proper record keeping systems to be introduced for chambers; and a wider programme of compulsory continuing education for barristers.

One Bar Council official said: "I don't think one should underestimate the capacity of the review body to make constructive and effective recommendations. The package as a whole could be quite substantial."

At the heart of the report will be the overhaul of the complaints machinery in line with proposals from Michael Barnes, who as Legal Services Ombudsman monitors the profession's handling of complaints, the Consumers' Association and the National Consumer Council.

Complaints against barristers are on the increase, but under the present system complainants get short shrift: the Bar will entertain a complaint only if it amounts to professional misconduct and is therefore a disciplinary offence.

"It is primarily a disciplinary system which exists for the benefit of the profession rather than a complaints system," Mr Barnes said.

The report is expected to suggest a system in which a barrister found guilty of shoddy work could be ordered to remit fees to the client.

Although the system of the "brief fee" is likely to remain, the report is expected to recommend changes so that there is earlier delivery of the brief by solicitors combined with a system of part-payment. This would tackle the problem of briefs either being delivered just before trial or barristers sitting on the brief and preparing it at the last minute.

Nuclear sub could leak at any time

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

A RUSSIAN nuclear submarine wrecked in a fishing ground used by European trawlers could begin discharging big quantities of radioactive materials at any time, a British nuclear engineer said yesterday.

Scientists had believed that the two nuclear warheads on board the *Komsomolets* submarine, lost in 1989 in the Barents Sea in the Arctic Ocean, would leak their radioactive cargo in tiny amounts over hundreds of years.

But new studies by Russian military scientists indicate that chemical reactions between the sea-water and the two nuclear torpedoes and the sub's titanium hull are accelerating the corrosion of the warheads. The radioactive pollution could stretch over "several thousands of kilometres," the studies by a Moscow nuclear safety centre show.

John Large, a British nuclear engineer who has just returned from a meeting in St Petersburg, said the Russian military scientists now feared widespread fish contamination could be triggered within three years.

Mr Large said the submarine's reactor, believed to have been damaged in an explosion after a fire and now awash with sea water, may also "go critical" soon.

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Karpov wins Linares

With a win against Vladimir Kramnik in round 11 and a draw against Visly Anand in round 12, Anatoly Karpov, the Fide champion, has scored ten points with one round to go in the Linares tournament and thus assured himself of first prize.

Brilliant sacrifices

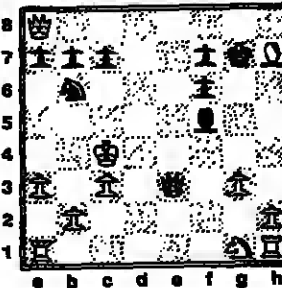
In round 11, the Russian grandmaster Evgeny Bareev sacrificed almost all of his pieces in a game which will almost certainly win the brilliant prize.

White: Veselin Topalov
Black: Evgeny Bareev
Linares, March 1994

French Defence

- | | |
|----------|------|
| 1 e4 | e5 |
| 2 d4 | c5 |
| 3 Nc3 | Nf6 |
| 4 Bg5 | dxg4 |
| 5 Nxe4 | Be7 |
| 6 Bxf6 | Bd6 |
| 7 c5 | Nd7 |
| 8 Qc2 | e5 |
| 9 Qxe5 | Nxe5 |
| 10 Q4 | Ng6 |
| 11 Q3 | O-O |
| 12 Bx3 | Qc6 |
| 13 a3 | Nd4 |
| 14 Nde5+ | g5 |
| 15 Bx7+ | Kg7 |
| 16 Qe4 | Re8 |
| 17 Qxe8 | Bf5 |
| 18 Qe6 | Ce4+ |
| 19 Kf2 | Qg2+ |
| 20 Kg3 | Nc5+ |
| 21 Kf4 | Qd2+ |
| 22 Kc5 | Qe3+ |
| 23 Kc4 | Nb6+ |
- White resigns

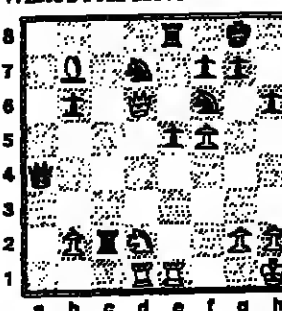
Diagram of final position



Kasparov controversy

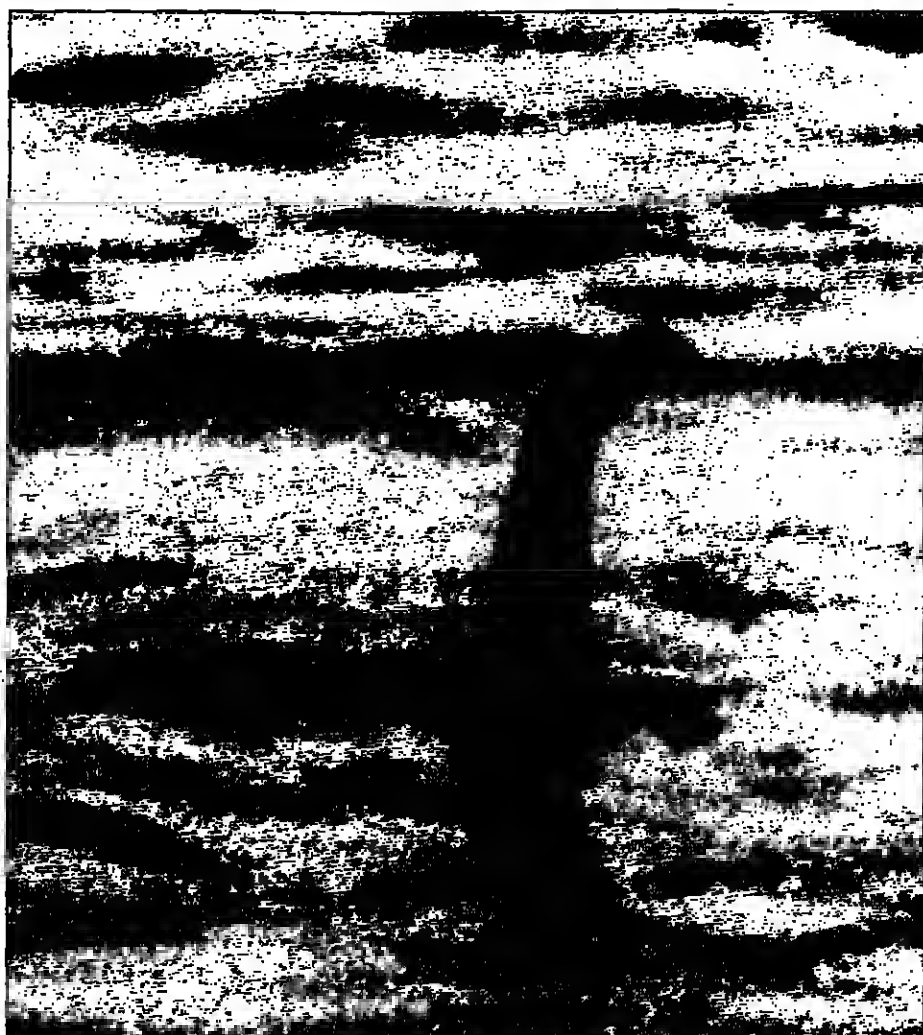
The following position shows where Garry Kasparov was accused of cheating in round 5. White: Judit Polgar
Black: Garry Kasparov

Position after White's 36th move



In the above position Kasparov played 36... Nf8. Polgar, onlookers and Spanish television claim that Kasparov first made the move 36... Ne5 and let go of the piece. In that case, Polgar would have then won with 37 Bc6 attacking Black's queen on e4 and his rook on e8.

Winning Move, page 40



The Surgeon's Photograph is now said to show a fake Nessie made of plastic wood

Nessie hunt goes on after scientists concede hoax

By JOHN YOUNG

A SCIENTIST investigating the existence of the Loch Ness monster refused to dismiss the popular legend yesterday, in spite of the most famous picture of the supposed creature being exposed as a hoax.

Adrian Shine, leader of the Loch Ness and Morar Project, set up to discover whether a mysterious being inhabits the deep waters southwest of Inverness, even welcomed the revelation that the photograph, which appeared in the *Daily Mail* in April 1934, was a fraud.

According to new claims, the picture was concocted using a toy submarine fitted with the head and neck of a sea serpent made from plastic wood. It was taken by Colonel Robert Wilson, a Harley Street gynaecologist, who claimed to have seen "something in the water" on April 19, 1934, and has since been known as the Surgeon's Photograph.



Hoaxers: Marmaduke Wetherell and Colonel Wilson

Researchers have, however, discovered that Wilson was the front man for a conspiracy to hoodwink Fleet Street led by Marmaduke Wetherell, a self-styled big

game hunter, who had been hired by the *Daily Mail* to track down the monster. The other members of the group were Wetherell's son Ian, his stepson Christian Spurling, and Maurice Chambers, an insurance broker, all of whom are now dead.

Wetherell is said to have been motivated by revenge after his "discovery" of footprints on a beach in Loch Ness was discredited by the Natural History Museum, which said the prints had been made by the dried foot of a hippopotamus, perhaps part of an umbrella stand.

Mr Shine said yesterday that he was convinced that the report of the hoax was valid. Much of the research was carried out by one of his own staff, Alastair Boyd. "It was always a very controversial photograph," he said. When the negative was inspected, the "monster" was found to be very small.

But Mr Shine added: "Eye-witness accounts still suggest that there is something powerful in the loch. As scientists, we naturally resent hoax evidence, because it discredits the seriousness of our research. I hope the whole mystery can now be approached more openly."



KAZAKHSTAN NUCLEAR TEST VICTIM

"Hush mother do not cry. I am filled with angels."

These brave, calming death-bed words of a child radiation victim may shock us. They shouldn't surprise us.

"Such children are always strong, gentle, enduring, brave. They seem to be looking back at us from some other place, as though to tell us something. Then they are gone."

Ever since Hiroshima, children have borne the brunt of the nuclear industry's fall-out. In the womb, and as they grow, children are more vulnerable to the effects of radiation.

Therefore they suffer more from radiation linked diseases such as leukaemia, foetal malformation and other genetic defects.

In some ways, because of this sensitivity, they protect us. Acting as some awful human early warning device.

These early warning signs have already been seen near to nuclear installations such as Sellafield, where plutonium is processed for nuclear weapons; near the sites of major nuclear accidents like Chernobyl, as well as at nuclear test sites around the world.

Children have died. We know something is wrong.

"... he died quietly, surrounded by the ones he loved, utterly exhausted having lost so much blood. His tissue had broken down completely and he was bleeding from every body opening. His bed looked like a battlefield."

As if this were not enough, we now face the prospect of huge increases in radiation, heightened chances of accident and greater plutonium proliferation risks, all from THORP, the newly licensed nuclear reprocessing plant at Sellafield.

It is our opinion that these risks are real. They beckon a world where radiation linked disease becomes an accepted part of everyday life. As if to prove the point, it can be shown from official figures that 2,000 will die because of the discharges from Sellafield over the next ten years.

Many will be children. But nobody knows which children, or when they will die, or where.

The nuclear industry, somewhat coldly, terms their deaths "theoretical". Even though it accepts the theory. To the children and the parents, however, it will be no mere theory. It will be an agonising horror.

"It was such a shock. Cancer. It goes right through you. You hear of a thing, but it doesn't matter to you, you put it at the back of your mind. But when it is happening to you and your child, it hits you right in the face."

Last week in the High Court Greenpeace challenged the legality of the Government's decision to open THORP without a full Public Inquiry. The Court has not found in Greenpeace's favour. But that cannot be an end to the matter.

Greenpeace will go on fighting against a rationality which allows children's lives to be weighed, like so many molecules, by an industry intent on spreading radiation and the means of mass destruction around the globe.

Please help us continue the fight. To be on our side, all you need is a sense of right and wrong and to refuse to be walked over by powers who deem it right to play with children's lives.

In the end we will win.



To join or donate, call us on our credit card hotline (011) 226 6410, (24hrs), or fill in the coupon:

☐ £14.50 Single ☐ £19.50 Family/Household ☐ Other donation £

☐ I enclose cheque (PO) for £ payable to Greenpeace Limited.

☐ Please charge my Visa/Mastercard no.

Signature Expiry date

Name Mr/Mrs/Ms/Ms

Address

Postcode

Please return to: Greenpeace, FREEPOST, ND 944, Northampton NN3 6RR.

1. Please tick "no" if you are not a resident of the UK. 2. Please tick "yes" if you are a resident of the UK. 3. Please tick "yes" if you are a resident of the UK. 4. Please tick "yes" if you are a resident of the UK.

GREENPEACE

Unanswered questions over scandal feed rumours of sexual adventure and killing

Conspiracy theory in Whitewater case widens to murder

Not since the assassination of John F. Kennedy have so many conspiracy theories been launched about the alleged wrongdoings of the great and the good. The apparent suicide in suspicious circumstances last July of Vincent Foster, Bill and Hillary Clinton's old friend and legal associate, set the Whitewater rumour mill going. But it was the no-less mysterious murder of Jerry Parks, the President's former chief of security, in his home state of Arkansas, which took the gossip to fever pitch. Whitewater investigators seeking to prove financial and political wrongdoing by Mr Clinton or his wife are being deluged by racy tales of murder, money and sexual adventure.

One version accepts Foster's shooting death as suicide and suggests his body was dumped near the headquarters of the CIA by White House aides who were protecting a secret Virginia safe house that Administration officials had used for "private meetings". It was in that apartment and not at the park, they say, that Foster put the gun in his mouth and fired. This would explain the lack of blood behind the gaping head wound and why nobody in the park heard the shot.

Others say Foster was murdered and the evidence was missed by a blundering pathologist and by the park police. One story has Whitewater records stolen from the safe in Foster's office. But officials insist Foster had no safe in his office. Mr Clinton said reporters and opposition members twist the facts "like taffy to the nth degree." (Taffy is American for liquid toffee.)

Paradoxically, the countless Kennedy-style conspiracy theories are also unwelcome to Republicans in Congress — who wish for the maximum embarrassment if not impeachment of the Clintons. "All the nuts are coming out of the woodwork. I'm concerned the whole thing will be

Frank Murray of the Washington Times traces the roots of the Whitewater imbroglio to small-town politics, business — and crime

dismissed in the public's mind because it's all so bizarre," one Republican at the Capitol said.

The strange cast of characters includes:

■ Jerry Parks, owner of the Little Rock security firm em-

ployed by the Clinton-Gore campaign, who was shot dead in gangland style last September.

■ Bob Trout, a former nightclub owner and inmate of the Arkansas state prison, who lives in Hot Springs but is well-known to Little Rock police.

■ Tommy McIntosh, a cocaine dealer and the son of Mr Clinton's old enemy, Robert "Soy" McIntosh, who claims Tommy was pardoned from prison by the acting Governor on Inauguration Day — fulfilling the President's promise to have it done if Mr McIntosh would stop attacking him.

■ David Hale, a former judge and another Clinton opponent, who says he and Jim Johnson, a former Supreme Court Justice, expect to force the President to resign. They claim to have proof he arranged a fraudulent \$300,000 (£200,000) federal loan.

■ Harry Hastings, a political fixer who has a reputation that is charitably called unflattering.

Deaths which are being discussed by the conspiracy theorists include that of Herschel Friday, a lawyer who headed Arkansas' largest law firm, who died in a private plane crash two weeks ago, and the 1987 suicide of Little Rock bond broker John Markle, son of Mercedes McCambridge, the actress. Markle left most of his \$1 million estate to his mother after killing his two daughters and his wife.

Long after the Vince Foster case was marked down as suicide, Robert Fiske, the special counsel, hired Roderick Lankier, a Manhattan homicide specialist, along with a pathologist and forensic scientists to review the case. They still want to know

why Foster's body was laid out so neatly, gun in hand, and why it had cooled so much. Foster had begun taking anti-depressant drugs and seeing a psychiatrist. He was in despair over his failures on behalf of the Clintons. But many who acknowledge that he was depressed cannot believe that it was coincidental that he chose to die on the day search warrants were served on Judge Hale, the man who boasted he could bring down the President.

Powder burns inside the mouth and the huge exit wound in the back of Foster's head were consistent with suicide from a gun fired into his mouth. Nitrates embedded in the skin of his hand matched the pattern of test firings with the .38-calibre revolver. An indentation on his thumb matched the pattern of the trigger on the First

World War gun, which proved untraceable. But the suicide verdict was put in doubt when it emerged that Dr James Beyer, deputy chief medical examiner since 1971, had botched a previous post-mortem examination. He described as suicide a stabbing which later proved to be murder and for which the victim's girlfriend went to prison. Dr Beyer's mistake was excused on the grounds that he had experienced a stroke, contracted tuberculosis from one corpse, and was bitten by a snake.

Nominees for the role of "hit-man" in the wider tales, range from the First Lady herself to Jerry Parks, the 47-year-old campaign security chief, whose unsolved Little Rock execution followed Foster's death by two months.

The Whitewater case is rife with puzzles, including the identity of the person who telephoned the 911 emergency number to report Foster's body in the park. It even has, in Trout, a former nightclub owner whom conspiracy buffs cast in the role played by Dallas lounge-owner Jack Ruby, who ostensibly killed President Kennedy's killer to keep the secret.

Lieutenant Charles Holladay, of Little Rock Police, said yesterday: "Parks' wife believes this was more than just a coincidental random shooting. She has expressed her opinion about the possible motive but hasn't been able to provide any useful information that would justify that opinion."

One shot was fired through the back window of Mr Parks' 1993 Chevrolet as he drove home in broad daylight. The assailants then drove alongside his car at a stop sign and pumped three 9-millimetre bullets into his body. "His background and business dealings in the past might have provided a motive, but I think the suspicion is maybe doing injustice to a lot of people who had a dispute with the individual in the past," Lt Holladay said when asked about Trout, who went to prison for heading a disc jockey in the head with a baseball bat after a business dispute. Another Little Rock Whitewater-watcher says: "Bob Trout's name comes up in everything. I'm not surprised somebody's made some connection."

Mrs Clinton, meanwhile, calls the rumours "paranoid conspiracies" and refuses to join her husband in replying to "malevolent, malicious, false gossip."

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Vienna: Austria's far-right Freedom Party, which calls for restrictions on immigration, made gains in all three provincial elections, first projections showed, increasing its share of the vote in Tyrol, Salzburg and Carinthia. (Reuters)

Brussels: Hundred of revelers dressed as vampires, ghouls, goblins and devils danced at a Vampire Ball in a 19th-century hotel to celebrate the 12th Brussels festival of fantasy, science-fiction and thriller films. (Reuters)

London: British attempts to defeat terrorism in Northern Ireland within the law and with respect for human rights will be used as an example today by John Major as he urges Narasimha Rao, the Indian prime minister, to pay particular attention to human rights in Kashmir when the two men begin talks in Downing Street (Michael Binyon writes).

Mr Major will express Britain's "great concern" over Kashmir, and urge India and Pakistan to revive their dialogue under the 1972 Simla agreement. He will also call on both countries to stop material support for militants across the line of control. The talks come a day after Muslim militants staged massive attacks on Indian troops across Kashmir in protest at the arrest of a rebel leader.

Kashmir however will be the only point of contention during Mr Rao's four-day visit, which will focus on the growing trade between Britain and India and India's economic liberalisation. Exports in both directions increased 20 per cent last year, with Indian exports breaking the billion pound mark.

New York: The Clinton Administration is discussing a proposal that Congress lift its ban on military aid to Pakistan in exchange for a halt in

Lower Saxony voters signal crucial Kohl humiliation

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

HELMUT Kohl's Christian Democratic Union braced itself yesterday for a humiliating defeat in the Lower Saxony state elections. The result will set the tone for Germany's bumper election year and the signs are that the Chancellor will be forced onto the defensive.

Lower Saxony has been ruled for the past four years by a coalition of Social Democrats (SPD) and Greens — a so-called "Red-Green" government. The strong personality of Gerhard Schröder, the SPD Prime Minister, has ensured that some of the more radical elements of the Greens' programme — an end to nuclear power, scrapping of arms orders — have been dropped.

The eve-of-election opinion polls gave the SPD a clear lead over the Christian Democrats of 45 per cent to 35 per cent.

The Greens, hovering at 7 per cent, seem the natural coalition partner yet again. In some ways this would play into the Chancellor's hands: he can warn Germans about the rise of the Red-Greens and give the impression that their unpredictable left-wing alliance is the alternative to his own experienced and secure style of government.

The two sides have drawn different finishing lines. The CDU would count it as a success of sorts if it manages to scrape together 38 per cent of the vote, 6 per cent less than in the state election of 1990. The SPD is aiming for an absolute majority so that it can finally dispense with the embarrassment of a Green partner. In order to achieve this goal, the Social Democrats would need to score about 46 per cent — a feasible aim given the opinion poll predictions — and both the liberal Free Democrats and the right-wing Republicans would have to flop.

If those two small parties fail to reach 5 per cent — and the opinion polls suggest this is quite possible — then they will not have any seats in the state parliament. The Republicans are counting on the large number of undecided voters. Many German sympathisers of the extreme right refuse to give their voting preference to opinion poll samplers.

Since the 1960s, Lower Saxony has had a groundswell of support for the far right or even neo-Nazi groupings, who play especially on the farming communities' fear of foreigners, and their resistance to refugee centres being set up in villages.

□ Berlin: Heinrich Count von Einsiedel, 72, great-grandson of Otto von Bismarck, Germany's first Prime Minister, announced he would run for parliament as a communist candidate in Bavaria. (Reuters)

Election marathon

■ March 13, Lower Saxony: first challenge to Helmut Kohl. Will Social Democrat-Green alliance — present state government — humiliate his Christian Democrats?

■ March 20, Schleswig-Holstein local polls: may see mass defection from traditional parties. Will far-right parties gain?

■ June 12, European parliament election: wave of protest likely to reach new pitch. Momentum may start building to remove Kohl.

■ June 26, September 11, October 16, six state elections, five in east Germany: will cast Germans reject Christian Democrats?

■ October 16, national elections: can the CDU-Free Democrat coalition survive? Will Rudolf Scharping, the Social Democrat leader, be the new Chancellor?

Pay flak pierces Balladur image

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

THE narrow shoulders of Edouard Balladur looked more frail than usual yesterday and it was not just the effect of the flak jacket on a trip to French troops in Bosnia. The Prime Minister is under harsh fire at home.

At issue is his attempt to drop the minimum wage for young workers, an action that has sparked big demonstrations. A poll on Friday showed that 70 per cent of the French believe that a "serious social crisis" is imminent. On Saturday, some 200,000 young people and unionists marched against the minimum wage plan, following a demonstration which turned into riot in Paris on Thursday.

M Balladur's task this week is to counter the groundswell of protest without another U-turn. Fewer than 50 per cent of voters now support him and a poll yesterday showed that for the first time since his landslide last March, M Balladur's negative ratings exceed his positive ones.

He insists that recovery from recession will heal the nervous breakdown. But his team must calm the despair that is feeding bitterness among the young.

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London & Manchester	5,433	11,500
Royal Life	4,850	9,900

*Subject to Auctioneers fees

The Life Policy Auction Handbook tells you everything you need to know to get your policy to auction. You don't even have to attend yourself. You can even reserve the price on your policy at auction well above the surrender value, but you have nothing to lose — but you could potentially have thousands of pounds to gain. The Life Policy Auction Handbook costs no more than the average popular handbook — yet it can bring immediate and tangible rewards. As one reader put it in a recent letter: "Your book was the best £14.95 I ever spent. I have more than doubled my surrender value and would not have had any idea how to do it without your book. It was the best investment I have ever made. What a great feeling going to the bank with a cheque for nearly £18,000 — especially when the insurance company gave me a surrender value quotation for only £7,100". Included in this new book is a list of traders who can buy policies, details of the auctions and how to enter them together with sample letters for your insurance company and to the auctioneers. The price of this guide is £14.95, including postage and packaging. To order your copy, write to: Carrell Ltd, Dept. LPI, Alresford, Colchester, Essex CO7 8AP with your name and address and payment (cheque or Visa/Access) asking them to send you a copy of The Life Policy Auction Handbook. You can return your copy at any time for a full refund if you are not satisfied.



Fausto Bertinotti denies anti-Nato stance jeopardises poll hopes

Italian left moves to play down influence of Communist chief

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

FAUSTO Bertinotti, the Communist Refoundation leader, vows to abolish Nato, tax government bonds and halt privatisation, but denies that by doing so he is sabotaging postwar Italy's best prospect for a left-wing general election victory.

His moderate ally, Achille Occhetto, the leader of the Democratic Party of the Left (PDS), the former Communists, has toured the City of London and Nato headquarters in Brussels to reassure international financiers and Western generals that he will pose no threat to foreign investors or the Atlantic alliance if he forms an administration.

tion from his Progressive Alliance. The grouping includes Greens, the anti-Mafia Rete and the moderate Democratic Alliance as well as Signor Bertinotti's Rifondazione Comunista. However, Signor Bertinotti dismisses suggestions that his anti-Nato stance is alienating potential voters for his official ally and erstwhile rival, and alarming international opinion. "I think it strange that in Italy it is considered scandalous for a coalition to have differences," Signor Bertinotti, 54, said.

A former Socialist trade unionist elected leader in January, Signor Bertinotti is a sophisticated apologist

for his party, which split from the old Italian Communist Party (PCI) in 1991 when it changed its name to the PDS and ditched Marxism. Appearing almost nightly on television chatshows, he says Nato is "redundant" and the world needs a United Nations army.

Silvio Berlusconi, the right-wing Forza Italia leader, cites the Rifondazione creed and its hammer and sickle symbol within the Progressive Alliance as justifying his anti-communist crusade at the head of a "Liberty Alliance" also comprising neo-Fascists and the Northern League.

Mussolini salute 'invented for film'

BY JOHN PHILLIPS

MUSSOLINI'S distinctive raised-arm, flat-handed "Roman salute", right, was not a greeting used by ancient Romans but a film gimmick invented by the poet Gabriele D'Annunzio, a leading Italian historian has concluded.

Until recently, Italians believed that Il Duce adopted the salute after seeing *Cabiria*, a Ben Hur-style film epic, in 1914. He adopted

it as the obligatory ritual of Fascism, calling it the "Roman salute". It was adopted by Hitler.

However, a book entitled *Pirates of Time: When Cinema Invents History*, by Sergio Bertelli of Florence University, argues that the salute had nothing to do with Rome and was invented by D'Annunzio, who wrote the screenplay for the film, to lend it solemnity.



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instance, with nearly £100 a month more in his pocket this year,

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Viljoen decision to contest poll divides Afrikaners on volkstaat strategy

Homeland foray leaves the white right in disarray

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN VENTERSDORP AND MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

THE humiliation of white extremists in South Africa, and the determination of the moderate right to take part in next month's election has divided and demoralised Afrikaner conservatives, perhaps beyond repair.

The fate of the ragtag neo-Nazi force, which strutted into the former black homeland of Bophuthatswana last week and then slunk away, leaving three of its dead behind, is said to have opened the eyes of many of the Afrikaner romantics, who long for their own volkstaat, or homeland, to the reality of modern politics. It may well have devastated support for the far-right's attempt to boycott the election.

General Constand Viljoen, a former chief of the South African Defence Force, announced his resignation at the weekend from the leadership of the Afrikaner Volksfront.

He will lead the Freedom Front, the party that he registered a week earlier, into the election, and has been criticised as "a political Judas" by the wild men of the right for providing a legitimate electoral outlet for right-wing aspirations.

In an effort to recover some of the far-right's tarnished pride, Willem Raut, a self-styled "commandant", led a force of the "Pretoria Boer Commando" to occupy Wonderboom fort, a Boer War redoubt north of the capital. Mr Raut, who is still wanted by police for leading a similar, earlier occupation, insisted that the force would resist any attempt to remove them.

Stunned members of the neo-Nazi Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB) meanwhile contemplated avenging their three comrades who were shot dead by Bophuthatswana

police on Friday. "They murdered our comrades in cold blood," said one, slinging his R4 rifle over his shoulder. "We are heartbroken. Something will have to be done." He was speaking at AWB headquarters in Ventersdorp, a small farming town in the heart of the Orange Free State. A man who declined to divulge his name but claimed to be an AWB "general" said AWB paramilitaries had gone to Bophuthatswana at the request of Lucas Mangope, the ousted President, to protect local people and restore order.

He denied that the AWB had killed local civilians indiscriminately. "We are not murderers. We are not racists either. How can we be if we went to help blacks in Bophuthatswana?"

In coming weeks, he said, the world would see the true might of the Afrikaner right. He claimed that there were between 60,000 and 70,000 trained paramilitaries, ready to fight for a volkstaat. Denouncing General Viljoen's decision to register for next month's election, he said the AWB would do everything in its power to resist South Africa's first multiracial election, because it signalled the onset of a "devilish" communist regime. Events in Bophuthatswana had been just the first stage in a National Party-ANC takeover of South Africa, he said.

However, although both Eugene Terre'Blanche, the AWB leader, and Ferdi Hartzenberg, leader of the hardline parliamentary Conservative Party, are implacably opposed to the election, General Viljoen has his supporters. The general believes



A soldier of the South African Defence Force guarding alleged looters in Mafeking

that only by participating in the election can those who believe in a volkstaat demonstrate their strength and numbers, and seven Conservative MPs have flouted party discipline by putting their names to a document supporting him. Two of them, Pieter Mulder and Pieter Groenewald, flanked General Viljoen as he

made his announcement yesterday. Other Conservative MPs, including a number of quite senior figures, are being mentioned as possible candidates: Willie Snyman, the deputy leader, Tom Langley, Pieter Gous and Dries Bruwer. Dr Hartzenberg acknowledged the "definite possibility" that General Viljoen could

take many supporters with him. General Tienie Groenewald, a former head of military intelligence, and other generals in the Volksfront are also expected to follow their leader. General Groenewald has indicated that he could not work with the AWB.

Pretoria takes over, page 1

Kach zealots to challenge ban in Israeli court

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

MILITANT Jews who openly applauded last month's Hebron mosque massacre yesterday declared they would mount a legal challenge to a sweeping new government ban on the two main extremist groups, Kach and Kahane Chai (Kahane Lives).

The groups, followers of Meir Kahane, the murdered New York-born rabbi, were outlawed by a unanimous vote of the Israeli cabinet. The ban, the first of its kind against a Jewish organisation, will affect about 400 extremists many of whom are already on the run.

Kach said it would suspend operations pending a planned appeal to the Israeli Supreme Court. Michael Ben-Yair, the Attorney-General, said the decision put the two groups on a par with Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, and other extreme Palestinian groups. Israeli lawyers said leaders of the two groups could be jailed for up to 20 years. Six have been identified by name and the security forces will have the power to raid the organisations' offices.

Hanan Ashrawi, a leading Palestinian, welcomed the move but repeated that Israel must still disarm settlers and remove them from population Arab areas such as Hebron. "This is a positive development towards redressing a basic injustice in the Israeli judicial system," she said.

Since the Hebron massacre, four Israelis have been detained without trial and the movements of 18 others have been limited but the reaction was widely criticised as being too weak. The new banning order, categorised by one Kach activist as "totalitarian" and "bolshevist", was part of an attempt by the government of Yitzhak Rabin to woo the Palestine Liberation Organisation back to peace talks and to ward off criticism when the Prime Minister flies to Wash-

ington this week to meet President Clinton.

In a defiant gesture, Baruch Marzel, the Kach leader, telephoned Israel Radio by mobile phone from his hiding place, believed to be in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, to say that his group would continue to operate from jail or underground. He said he would not give himself up.

David Akeed, spokesman for Kahane Lives, said of the decision: "We have an infrastructure to continue operating, not only from the underground, even from the prisons." Avishai Raviv, a leading Kach militant, told Israel's Army Radio: "This



will simply push more people against the wall and cause more people to take the law into their own hands."

Under the new order the two groups are defined as "terrorist organisations" and anyone spreading their violent and openly racist ideology, even under another name, will be liable to prosecution. It will be illegal to support them financially and the police are empowered to shut down their premises and confiscate property.

Amnon Rubenstein, the Education Minister, said that now the ban had been imposed, it was up to the Israeli security forces in the occupied territories to impose it.



Lucas Mangope, ousted by the unrest, and General Constand Viljoen, who aims to fight the election



A Warm Welcome to Mr. Rao

The official visit of Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, Prime Minister of India, is an appropriate occasion to celebrate the close ties of friendship and co-operation between two great democracies - India and Great Britain.

The whole world, and Britain in particular in a special sense both as the world's oldest Parliamentary democracy and also because of its close historical ties with India, has a stake in the strength of India's democratic and secular framework.

Under Mr. Rao's leadership, India has launched an important programme of wide ranging economic reforms which hold great significance not only for the prosperity and well-being of the sub-continent, but also for investment and trading opportunities for the rest of the world - especially for Britain.

Therefore, a warm welcome to you Mr. Rao.

On this happy occasion, the Indian community in the UK pledges anew to work in a spirit of unity and harmony, projecting the true values of India's ancient heritage - secularism, tolerance, peace and understanding. We applaud and extend our full support to the strengthening of friendship between India and Great Britain.

Issued on behalf of all the Indian Community Organisations in the UK, including:

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Britons are caught in Nile attack

Cairo: Suspected Muslim militants fired at a tourist boat on the river Nile yesterday at the end of the holy fasting month of Ramadan.

None of the 14 British tourists or Egyptian crew on board was wounded in the attack near the fundamentalist stronghold of Assiut, 200 miles south of Cairo. The cruise continued.

Police in Assiut prevented a mass gathering called by the militant Gama'a al-Islamiya group, which has claimed responsibility for eight previous attacks on Nile cruises. (Reuters)

Turks injured

Adana: Two bombs exploded in southern Turkey yesterday, one here and one in the port of Mersin, injuring a total of 17 people. Nobody admitted responsibility. Left-wing guerrillas and Kurdish separatists are active in the area. (AP)

Afghan truce

Kabul: An unofficial 15-day ceasefire in Afghanistan has begun at the end of Ramadan, after an agreement between President Rabbani and his rival, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the Prime Minister. The city has been under siege by rival factions since January 1. (AFP)

Drugs 'victory'

Bogota: Colombian authorities hailed the surrender of Julio Urdinola, 27, leader of the Cali cocaine cartel, as a victory for the government's much-criticised policy of negotiating lenient sentences for drug traffickers who turn themselves in.

Monarch's rain

Bangkok: King Bhumibol Adulyadej called for chemical seeding of clouds to help to promote rain in one of the worst droughts to have affected Thailand. The seeding is expected over areas feeding the Chao Phraya river, a central water artery. (AFP)

Cult clashes

Lagos: Heavily armed Nigerian police moved into Lagos University after the authorities ordered 15,000 students out and the institution closed to stop violent clashes between members of secret cults and students opposed to them. (AP)

World Bank austerity pays off with African economic growth

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

AFTER years of falling living standards and declining wealth, Africa has at last registered a slight improvement in its economic outlook. A report which was published yesterday by the World Bank on the effects of its tough Structural Adjustment Programmes shows that several of the 29 sub-Saharan countries have seen reforms pay off with overall growth.

Six countries which have gone furthest in cutting public spending, removing subsidies

and pushing through economic liberalisation have seen the greatest improvement in growth rates. Burkina Faso, Gambia, Ghana, Nigeria, Tanzania and Zimbabwe registered an increase of almost 2 per cent in their gross domestic product.

On average, the continent recorded a growth rate of 1.1 per cent, compared with negative rates in recent years. But the bank said that unless policies improve, it will take 40 years before black Africa re-

turns to the per capita income it enjoyed 20 years ago. Ghana did best, with a real growth rate of 5 per cent a year. Although nine countries also saw small improvements, a further 11 saw a continuing fall in living standards.

The bank gave a warning that no African country had completed its reforms or achieved a sound macro-economic policy with inflation below 10 per cent, a low budget deficit, and a competitive exchange rate.

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Armed guard allows thousands to mourn their war dead in Sarajevo cemetery

UN force defies Serbs to enter Maglaj

FROM EDWARD GORMAN
IN VITEZ

FOR the first time since June last year United Nations observers, protected by Nato warplanes, yesterday entered the besieged Muslim pocket of Maglaj in northern Bosnia.

The peacekeepers moved in as the UN disclosed that an air attack was ordered by Nato jets on Serb positions around Bihac in western Bosnia on Saturday, but it was called off at the last minute.

It is believed that two units of UN military observers got through Serb lines and into Maglaj, an isolated and starving mountain settlement, though it was uncertain last night whether they reached the town itself. One report said the arrival of the observers, who are unarmed and travelling in soft-skinned vehicles, coincided with a Serb bombardment in which up to 500 shells were fired during an attack lasting two and a half hours.

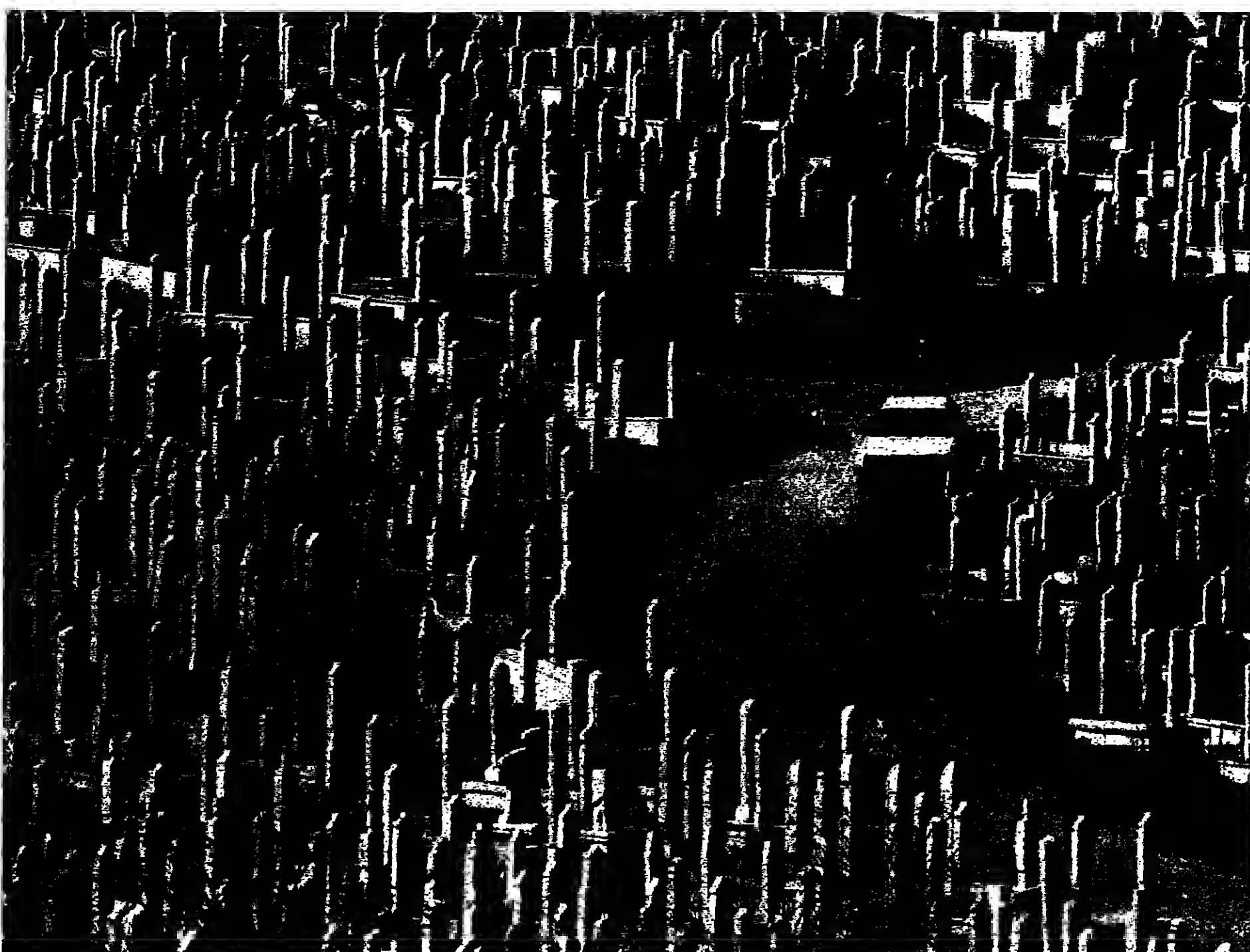
An estimated 20,000 people are living in difficult conditions in Maglaj and attempts by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to get convoys through to the area have been unsuccessful. Another effort is expected to be made on Wednesday.

The latest threatened use of Nato air power in Bosnia came late on Saturday night after the most recent of a series of Bosnian Serb attacks on a French UN battalion stationed in the Bihac enclave. A UN Protection Force (Unprofor) spokesman in Sarajevo said a request for close air support was made by General Jean Cot, the French commander based in Zagreb, to Yasushi Akashi, the UN special envoy. The spokesman said it followed an incident when French troops came under attack by a tank and by a 30mm self-propelled anti-aircraft gun. Two Nato planes were scrambled from Aviano, northern Italy, just before midnight on Saturday, but offensive action was called off after the "apparent withdrawal" of the Serb attacking force into a forest.

Nato has already demonstrated its preparedness to take offensive action in Bosnia, when its planes shot down four Serb fighters in an incident two weeks ago. The Unprofor spokesman said yesterday that Lieutenant General Sir Michael Rose, commander of the UN forces in Bosnia, has laid down three criteria which must be met before offensive action.

In each case, it can be carried out only against a unit deemed responsible for the initial aggression, the Nato response must be proportionate to the original force, and reports from the ground must be verified from the air or vice versa, before an attack can be launched.

Adverse political controversy flared in Greece over a proposal by the Socialist government to send a contingent of troops to Bosnia if the UN accepts a Turkish offer of 1,000 peacekeepers.



A family visiting graves yesterday in Bare cemetery, Sarajevo, for the first time in two years. The graveyard was secured by French United Nations troops for a few hours to enable relatives to visit on the first day of the Bairam festival, marking the end of Ramadan. Thousands of Sarajevans of all religions prayed for their dead under armed guard.

Pace of peace leaves Mostar bewildered

FROM TIM JUDAH
IN MOSTAR

ON THE frontline between Bosnian and Croatian troops in Mostar lies the skeleton of an old man. A Muslim, he was expelled from west Mostar by the Croats before Christmas and then shot in the back before he could make it to the other side. Lying in an exposed position, his remains have been gnawed by dogs, but because of snipers they cannot be retrieved for burial.

"How can we live there again?" said Alija, a Muslim soldier, from a position from which he has been forced to stare at the bones while pop music blares from the Croat frontline. But the pace of change has been so fast over the past two weeks that Alija is being asked to do much more than just live next to his former neighbours and enemies.

The giddy speed of the American-led diplomatic momentum has left Bosnians and Croats in a state of shock. Not only are plans for a federation moving forward at top

■ Enemies facing each other on the Bosnian-Croat frontline are being asked to accept a federal future in return for an end to the fighting. Many fears and doubts must be conquered before trust can be restored

speed but on Saturday the Bosnians and Croats even agreed to merge their armies.

In Mostar itself, commissions are already working on re-establishing electricity and water links to the Muslim-held east and rebuilding bridges across the river that divides much of the town. At a joint checkpoint, Croat and Muslim police officers laze in the sun and chat together while United Nations troops watch through UN traffic. Aid is flowing freely into east Mostar for the first time.

Two weeks ago, the main streets of east Mostar were empty as the population crowded in cellars or took tortuous back routes to move about. Now they are thronged with

people relaxing in the sunshine or queuing at the soup kitchens or the water lorries. Gangs of workmen are cleaning the town. Ten months of rubble is being moved, cables are being mended, and on Saturday rugs from a badly damaged mosque were being cleaned in preparation for the end of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan.

By the remains of Old Bridge, the famous Turkish-built symbol of Mostar destroyed by the Croats last year, remains have been gathered so that it can be rebuilt with as much original stone as possible. All these scenes would have been unimaginable before the ceasefire, and they have left people confused. Many want the city to go back to the way it

was before. But, as in the case of the Old Bridge, it will not be the same and many do not want the old "brotherhood and unity" either.

In a park overflowing with graves, a man tends that of his soldier son. His family was expelled from the west and now the politicians are talking about everyone going home. He says: "I will never go back in case I kill someone out of revenge." Half a mile away in west Mostar, the shops are full, the cafés are bustling, and sports cars cruise the streets. "I don't know why they hate us," says Gornja, a young man outside a slot-machine arcade. "Anyway, I'm not guilty of anything. Our government decides everything."

In the east, a woman shows off a pile of letters sent to her via the Red Cross from a friend she says is looking after the flat she was expelled from in the west. She says she will go home as soon as she can. Her daughter sobs. "I don't believe any of them any more. I will go home, get my stuff and leave

Bosnia." The rush to ram through a peace deal is leaving many questions unanswered. The Croats want all of Mostar to be a Muslim-controlled district within a Croat province in the proposed federation with the east. The response of Small Klarić, head of east Mostar's war presidency, is: "No way, never, no chance." Mr Klarić says that the city must be united under Bosnian control or as a free city outside the boundaries of any ethnically dominated province.

Safet Orucovic, a military commander and local politician, says he is optimistic that a deal can be struck, but adds that if the Croats do not like the Bosnian proposals, "then they must fight us again."

Unlike other parts of Bosnia, though, Mostar may have more time to sort out its future. In the next few days, a European Union delegation will arrive to open preliminary discussions on a two-year period of interim EU administration for the city. That might give the politicians the breathing space that is needed.

Gorazde combatants edge towards private amnesty

FROM GEORGE EYKYN
IN GORAZDE

IN THE devastated no man's land at Ustipirca, just outside Gorazde, the two sides sit on low benches facing each other, unarmed. The building has no walls; both front lines can see them.

The Serbs are led by Dragan Bulajic, a softly spoken engineer whose personal friends from before the war include Ferid Bulubasic, now the Muslim military commander of Gorazde. Captain Bulajic, now an officer in the Bosnian Serb army and head of a committee for prisoner exchanges, reports directly to the Serbian leadership.

On the bench opposite sits Hienso, Gorazde's deputy commander, dressed in combat fatigues. A handful of

■ The first reporter to enter the besieged Bosnian enclave of Gorazde in a year finds the two sides looking for a way to bring at least a temporary halt to the slaughter

United Nations aid workers, interpreters and military observers watch from a respectful distance. Haris Silajic, the Bosnian Prime Minister, was invited but rejected the Serbs' offer of safe conduct.

The initiative began last summer but has been kept quiet until now. Mr Bulajic opened radio contact with Gorazde's leaders and last month went into the enclave himself, at considerable risk. He called conditions there "seventeenth century". Under the proposed agreement, the

Serbs would release about 40 Muslim prisoners. In return, 22 Serb prisoners of war would be let out of Gorazde. Both sides would repair electricity and water facilities for the enclave.

The Serbs say there are 400 of their civilians stuck inside the town, desperate to get out. The deal would establish the principle of freedom of movement for civilians, for humanitarian and trade convoys and medical evacuations. Gorazde's Muslims are being asked to accept that they will

be cut off from any Muslim state, their existence dependent on Serb good will. In return, they would be allowed to continue running the enclave. However, it would be surrounded by the self-declared Republika Srpska, which intends merging with Serbia proper.

Gorazde would remain an island to eastern Bosnia, where the striking sight now is not just of entire valleys of Muslim (and Serb) houses wrecked in last spring's offensives but also of a determined drive by the Serbs to rebuild and occupy.

At the Muslim front line a stern-looking Bosnian policeman in crisp black uniform noted my particulars, then lifted the barrier. "Welcome to Gorazde," he added in English, flashing a big grin. About

65,000 people are trapped here, in a siege that has lasted almost as long as Sarajevo's. They rely almost completely on aid and have been living on a fifth of what the UN says are their basic needs.

None of the ordinary people I met knew about the negotiations that were taking place, and the Muslim authorities stopped people I asked from commenting on them. In the end, Serb leaders would prefer Gorazde and Srebrenica to be swapped for some of the Serb-controlled land around Sarajevo. For the moment, however, they realise that, to an international community full of expectation over Bosnia, the Gorazde negotiations look like something positive.

George Eykyn reports for BBC Breakfast News

NEWS IN BRIEF

Algerian militants say 1,684 fled jail

Bomb: Muslim gunmen freed 1,684 fellow militants in a mass Algerian jailbreak last week, not 900 as reported by the APS official Algiers news agency, a European official of the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front said.

When asked where the new number came from, the official, who declined to be named, said: "We have people everywhere in Algeria, even in the intelligence services. Of those who broke out, 350 had been condemned to death and 400 sentenced to life in prison."

The official said the mass escape from a fortress jail near Batna, 220 miles east of Algiers, did not include any key figures of the front, which was banned in 1992. (Reuters)

Somalia attack

Mogadishu: Somalis fired two missiles towards more than a dozen American, German and Italian ships anchored off the coast near the capital, preparing to take out foreign troops, but they exploded short of any craft, the United Nations said. (Reuters)

Liberia hope

Monrovia: Fighters loyal to Charles Taylor, the Liberian guerrilla leader, surrendered their guns to African peacekeepers at Wealla, 50 miles north of here, in a hopeful step towards ending four years' civil war, but rival rebels battled to the north-west around Todee. (AP)

Keating pledge

Canberra: Carmen Lawrence, 46, the former Labor Premier of Western Australia, won a stunning federal by-election in Fremantle and was assured of a senior Cabinet post by Paul Keating, the Prime Minister. (AFP)

Theatre of war

Hanoi: James Webb, a Vietnam veteran and former Bush Administration official, is to direct *Fields of Fire*, the first US war film to be shot in Vietnam. He begins filming in Danang next month, the *Vietnam Investment Review* said. (AFP)

Careless cost

Gainesville: A Texas-based carpet-cleaning company was ordered to pay \$1 million (£666,000) to the parents of two college students strangled by Alan Davis, whose record of drug offences and violence it failed to check before employing him. (AP)

Salvador battle

San Salvador: Up to 33 people were injured when supporters of El Salvador's ruling Arena party fought street vendors and youths supporting left-wing former guerrillas who are its main rivals in the election next Sunday. (Reuters)

Sons chained

Bangkok: A Thai mother kept her two sons, now aged 52 and 59, chained up by their legs for 20 years for being bullies. They are to receive hospital treatment for psychiatric illness. (Reuters)

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Margot Norman expects women priests to bring tradition and intellectual energy



The Rev Jane Hayward, left, yesterday after her first service since being ordained on Saturday. She is curate of St Mary Redcliffe, in Bristol, a church admired by Elizabeth I

At first sight, the retreat of woolly liberalism in the Church of England would seem the least likely outcome of the ordination of women. Surely it is those at both ends of the Church's broad spectrum who are in retreat, the Anglo-Catholics and the conservative evangelicals? Opposition to women priests is not all that unites those much-publicised individuals who are decamping, either to Rome or to form home churches in alliance with non-Anglican evangelicals: they appear to share a feeling that they are leaving their beloved Church to the mercies of liberals whose most strongly held belief is in the power of fashion.

On the contrary, says the woman most often tipped to become the first female Anglican bishop, June Osborne believes it is the liberals who will feel least at home in the reshaped Anglican Church. What she and others like her are working for, with genuine optimism at last, is a synthesis of the Protestant and Catholic traditions that have, as she puts it, squabbled like siblings virtually ever since the Elizabethan Settlement.

"What people sometimes caricature as the Church of England's middle-headed comprehensiveness is in fact very much more creative than that; it is an essential matter of holding the tensions between those two traditions. Intellectually, the division between those two is far smaller than the division between them and liberalism. It is much more difficult to

envisage a place for the liberal view that always responds to everything in a fashionable way."

Mrs Osborne is a woman of exceptional energy and intellectual vigour who will have a distinguished 20-year career in the Church behind her when she is ordained next month. She has chaired the General Synod, nursed a parish in London's East End, inspected theological colleges and locked horns with the Archbishop of York on the terms and conditions of female ordinands. She has children and is married to a barrister.

Over the telephone on Saturday night she gave me an illuminating disquisition on St Paul's teachings, both in Greek and via subsequent translations, on the role of women in the Church. It elegantly embodied the synthesis she spoke of, and I couldn't help wishing that she, rather than the Bishop of Bristol, had given the sermon at that historic ordination ceremony.

Edward Norman, formerly Dean of Peterhouse, says the Church of

England is no longer a learned ministry. He welcomes the women but believes they can do little to reverse the Church's intellectual decline. Churchwomen such as June Osborne, Susan Cole-King, Dr Christina Baxter, the lay dean of St John's theological college in Nottingham, even Roman Catholics like Dr Elizabeth Stuart, an avowed feminist theologian who teaches at the Anglican college of St Mark and St John in Plymouth, would disagree. (The only significant group of demonstrators outside Bristol Cathedral on Saturday was Dr Stuart's band of Roman Catholics campaigning for women's ordination in their own church.) So would the former headmistresses, medical women and lecturers in theology who gathered in Bristol either as ordinands, ordinands-in-waiting or simply supporters.

The 32 women ordained on Saturday ranged in age from 29 to 69, and in character from those who were prepared to wait quietly for a quarter century and work for

no stipend to those who have palpably been holding themselves in check, not asserting their authority until the Church sanctioned it. Even though most of them will continue doing broadly the work they have done for years, the Archbishop of Canterbury is right to foresee a great burst of energy being unleashed.

He and his colleagues have, however, somewhat overemphasised the pastoral, social-working role they envisage for the women. They are in for a surprise if they think the new priests will exercise only these traditional feminine skills. Women such as Marjorie Stanton-Hyde, a no-nonsense figure of authority in her previous life as a rural headmistress in Worcestershire, will be just as forthright as rural priests now that the undignified constraints on their celebrating the Eucharist have gone. (Rather than bring in a male colleague to "do the hocus-pocus", she used to operate a sort of

takeaway system, having the bread and wine blessed in a nearby church and then bringing it back to her own.)

Miss Beale and Miss Buss would have recognised elements of the atmosphere in Bristol. There was a trailblazing air about the proceedings, with proud mothers like Mrs Hayward of Oundle trumpeting the qualities of her daughter Jane, curate at St Mary Redcliffe, the church that Queen Elizabeth I thought the fairest in the land. There were men like Father Jack House, an Anglo-Catholic who admits to having had many nights of doubt before accepting the ordination of women as God's will and finally regarding the ceremony as a triumphant new beginning.

There were evangelists who had been won round, and country parsons whose weakly held theological objections had evaporated once they realised that what they minded was not the arrival of women, but the departure of an image of priesthood from the 1950s.

Outside the cathedral there were passers-by who, seeing my reporter's notebook, crossed the road to tell me they had been against women priests until one such had come their way and helped them through some family crisis. Several mentioned Charming Man, the inspiring chaplain at St Michael's hospital for sick children. There were also those, probably the majority, who wondered why it had taken so long. The noteworthy thing was that even agnostics minded enough to say so.

Moscow goes Wilde

Forget the kitchen sink: Russians want the froth and wit of English writing

LADY Bracknell drew herself up to her full height ready to berate the unfortunate Jack, caught in the act of proposing to Gwendolen on one knee. The cognoscenti in the audience girded itself for the glorious, "Rise, Sir, from this semi-recumbent posture, it is most indecorous." But the Russian translation proved unequal to the challenge of Oscar Wilde's dazzling circumlocution, leaving Lady B lamely urging something more like, "Get up from the floor, you look silly down there." This was the theatrical equivalent of slamming the oven door on a soufflé.

Despite such occasional inadequacies however, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, or *Kak Vazhna bilit Serioznim*, is the unexpected success of the Moscow theatre season. Performances by the small Fomenko company have been sold out for four weeks and this at a time when the larger state theatres are in a slump.

Fomenko could not afford to stage the play in a proper theatre and asked Slava Zaitsev, Russia's best-known fashion designer and a fan of Wilde, if they could use his catwalk as a stage. The mainly young and fashionable audience was in raptures. "It is so refreshing to see superficiality portrayed so elegantly in our world which is either

haven't had High Society for over 70 years."

The love affair with English drama and literature remains intense. Victorian writing and the satire of the Twenties and Thirties remains the prevailing enthusiasm and the past exercises a remarkable hold over Russian perception of Britain. Trollope, Dickens and Galsworthy are among the most borrowed books from Moscow libraries with G.K. Chesterton, P.G. Wodehouse and Somerset Maugham close behind.

Russians are often unwilling to believe that we now have preoccupations other than taking tea and toast at four o'clock sharp. I have lost count of the number of times elderly members of the intelligentsia have enquired about the problem of fog on London Bridge or drowned my nice cup of Russian green tea in milk "because I have read in Agatha Christie that that is the way Miss Marple drinks it".

Intent on challenging such bourgeois inclinations, the Communists tried to push the utopian literature of H.G. Wells, whom they held in high regard for being uncommonly craven to Lenin. On the American side, Upton Sinclair and William Faulkner dominated the curriculum. But the popular fascination with the portrayal of minute worlds and nonsense writing prevailed. Winnie the Pooh is still a top seller for children and at the elite language school in Akademgorodok, near Novosibirsk, the ten-year-olds chant "The Walrus and the Carpenter" faultlessly.

ON THE Moscow stage this season you can see Goldsmith, Priestley and Wilde's *Salome*. These days there is hardly a trace of Osborne or Wesker, once officially prized for showing the grime of British life. "Audiences are looking for an escape from anything reminiscent of socialist realism," says Maria Blatova of *Theatre magazine*. "The frontier and witler the better."

Shakespeare, at least, stands constant in the whirl of theatre fashion. Turkmenistan's leader, Saparmurat Niyazov, wants every child to read one of his plays before leaving school. The late Georgian dictator, Zviad Gamsakhurdia, spent his free time translating the tragedies. Left wandering in the wilderness last year after he lost his kingdom to Eduard Shevardnadze's forces, he was said to have spent the last weeks before his suicide in exile declaiming chunks of *King Lear* and *Hamlet* to anyone who would listen.



ANNE McELVOY

A day for the trailblazers

Unfurrow that brow

Rejoice in the ever-bubbling spring of sweet, silly stories

It is with great pleasure that I am able to announce this morning the opening of the 1994 Silly Season. We are well ahead of schedule: the first cuckoo has barely cleared its throat, Parliament is still in session, the Norfolk daffodil harvest still tops the local news headlines every evening (they say the DSS has sabotaged it by getting too tough on moonlighting pickers). Yet, even in March, and despite the continuous tolling of the bad news bell from Bophuthatswana to Heathrow, on its wilder fringes the season is already showing most satisfactory signs of alleviating, distracting silliness.

A sixty-year-old photograph of the Loch Ness monster has been exposed as a fake, the monster having been made out of a toy submarine and plastic wood. Its creator made a deathbed confession, at 90. In north London a large ginger tom called Bilbo has been mistaken for a lioness by no less than nine separate witnesses, causing the deployment of 20 police officers with loudhailers, a helicopter and a man with a tranquilliser gun from London zoo. Meanwhile, an actor who plays a hospital administrator in the TV series *Casualty* has been attacked with some violence by a middle-aged "red-faced" woman who resents his sacking of an equally fictional doctor.

A prize bull in Ontario has fallen off a cow and hurt his leg and now has its own night nurse. And the actor who played Mark Hebdin in *The Archers* has announced "My character was very boring and deserved to die", causing furious letters from those who sent real wreaths to his imaginary widow and her imaginary IVF baby. An usherette in the Adelphi Theatre has been plucked from the icecream round by the producers of *Sunset Boulevard*, and put onstage, and rocketing up both pop and classical charts, with half a million sold, is a CD of some enclosed monks singing Gregorian plainsong. What's so silly about that? Well, nothing; except that they have been complaining, in a gentle monkish way, about paparazzi climbing the monastery trees to get photographs of them.

We should cherish these incongruities, and give thanks and praise for their early flowering. It is a rare treat to hear stories which load us with no guilt, and imply no duty to act, vote, or campaign. What could be pleasanter than an

odd fact about which you can do nothing, which poses no direct threat, does not prove that the world is going to the dogs, and can be taken as a mere Canterbury Tale?

Showbusiness provides many. The heart lifted, yesterday morning, on hearing about Lynne Perrie, the long-serving actress who plays a thin-lipped old bat called Ivy Brennan in *Coronation Street*, and who has shocked her fans and her employers by having a lip surgery and developing a luscious pout. She has been sacked, and responds by threatening to "assassinate" the characters of her six leading co-stars. "What I could say is sensational. But I'd have to do a Salman Rushdie afterwards."

Pity for Ms Perrie is eclipsed by merriment at the idea of Granada TV issuing a *fajita* over some revelation of actress seediness. Do you suppose they would send a message to all faithful *Street* fans, promising them the status of holy martyrs if they top the blasphemy?

Of course, with a bit of plodding, all the above examples could be converted into brow-furrowing stuff: calls for action and causes for anxiety. Suppose an elderly person had flunked into the canal on seeing Bilbo the cat? Ought there not to be a law that large ginger toms should carry prominent placards (in several languages) saying NOT A LION? Or suppose someone fell into Loch Ness while craning out of a dinghy to see the monster: surely the descendants of the photo-fakers should be brought to court for fraudulent enticement, and their estate pay compensation?

And is it not deeply worrying that so much fuss is made about soap operas in Britain today? Is this an illness? Is there any connection between the reckless eating of beefburgers and the increasing tendency of middle-aged red-faced women to accost soap villains and punch them on the nose? As for the *Canto Gregoriano* hit CD, should we not be shaking our heads and fearing that any minute now the good brothers will start wearing dark glasses, snorting coke and stepping out with supermodels?

No, we shouldn't. And that's the pleasure of it. I offer you, as a spring gift this morning, a newspaper column which draws no conclusions at all, about anything.



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THE TIMES
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Matthew Parris



■ If Australia is going to dump the monarchy, should the Queen not get her retaliation in first?

Ever since the Prince of Wales returned from his wretched trip to Australia I have been worrying about the future of our monarchy there. I'm no great monarchist but the Prince and his mother are good, dutiful people and our national pride is bound up with their dignity. They merit respect.

They are not going to get it in Australia. For reasons which, whether or not one likes them, it is pointless to ignore, Australia is going her own way. Her destiny is decoupled from ours. With it, the Australians' sense of a shared identity with us is also decoupled. Why argue whether this is bad or good, when it is inevitable?

And what point is there in the dry, constitutionalist argument that our Queen is Queen of Australia independently, that its people do not serve her as Queen of the United Kingdom, but as their own Australian Queen? Legally that is so. Legally she could have remained Queen of India, without it implying that India remained somehow under the British wing; but the Indians took a different view. They saw the dominion of an essentially British monarchy as an imperial hangover, and so it is. The retention by the Australian people of a British monarchy is an assertion of their will to associate themselves with us as a people. The will is fading.

It is sometimes forgotten that it is also an assertion of our will to associate ourselves with Australia. We would not have our Queen going off and being Queen anywhere she likes. We would not allow her to assume titular sovereignty over Libya, even if Colonel Gaddafi asks her. Constitutionally she is as free as you or I to be monarch of any nation which invites her; but in practice we should exercise a veto. When, in the last century, the island of Chile (off Chile) invited George IV to be its king, Caning told him to refuse — thank goodness, or Mrs Thatcher would have had us at war with Chile. In practice and in the last resort, our monarch's sovereignty over any overseas realm, either as part of her British realm or separately, is a matter for the British people.

And it is time we dropped Australia before it drops us. In any other human relationship we would have no doubt what to do. Once it becomes clear that you are going to be given the shove, you get out first, with your head held high. If you had a lover who, it became clear, was calculating how and when to jilt you, would you hang around? Would you willingly endure the humiliation of hearing a partner openly discussing with his

or her friends the timing of the abrogation of your partnership? "Shall I drop her this year, or leave it a little longer?" What sort of a question is that? Pride demands that if the question even needs to be asked publicly, one should preempt the answer. Of course it is only a matter of human pride, but if monarchy is not based upon human pride, then what is it? We should make it clear to Australia that we, too, have our pride. The Queen should be encouraged to begin the process of dropping her Australian dominions.

Or is the alternative not now dimly clear? We face five, perhaps ten, years during which the Aussies make up their minds to do what we all know that in the end they will do. One last, shaming royal visit; up to a decade of discourtesy towards our Queen and her family; small snubs; gibes; snide and hick comments of the kind some Australians think funny — and all based on the fantastically conceited assumption that a self-respecting Queen would really want to be their monarch anyway.

This would be the most humiliating part of all: the unspoken implication that we, for our part, want to carry on, and it's up to Australians whether they will have our Queen or not. The implication is that she and we are the petitioners, Aussie public opinion the court in which our request is to be heard. It is a court, moreover, whose final verdict is already known. Her Majesty is being asked to wait upon their judgment: how long a stay of execution may she enjoy, please?

I went to Western Australia recently, landing 70 years after D.H. Lawrence. His judgment in *Kangaroo* is spot on. "Nice," he said, "really nice. It made the spirits sink." Everyone lives in bungalows, watering flowers, visiting each other for barbecues and taking camping holidays at organised sites where they make tea with whistling kettles and avoid going into the bush, which they greatly fear. They are, Lawrence observed, a people sprinkled like packing cases — "tumbled, haphazard, off the pantechnicon of civilisation" round the edges of a great, dark continent which they hardly know, have not woo and for which they have never spilt blood. It is as though the entire population of Basingstoke had been given an empty continent, and told to go forth and multiply.

Their history is not there, but in Basingstoke. They want to make a history for themselves. It is time we gave them a push. The spirit of Australia is "see if I care". Well, see if we do.

'It is as though the people of Basingstoke had been given an empty continent, and told to go forth and multiply'

The Government must now take the fight to the enemy, argues Conor Cruise O'Brien

The first set of IRA mortar bombs landed at Heathrow on the eve of last week's meeting of the Anglo-Irish inter-governmental conference, set up under the Anglo-Irish Agreement of 1985. The meeting was attended by John Major and Albert Reynolds, the Irish Prime Minister, on whose behalf it was announced that the Heathrow bombs would not deflect the two governments from the peace process initiated by the Downing Street declaration (which will be three months old tomorrow). Dick Spring, the Irish Foreign Minister, did however acknowledge that the peace process had "received a setback" from the bombing. Two further almost identical setbacks were promptly administered by the IRA.

Gerry Adams, president of Sinn Féin and the pivotal figure in the supposed peace process, had something to say last week about the effect of the bombs on the process. The bombs do not, in his view, represent a setback. They show that "the causes of the conflict" remain in place. To end the conflict, the causes will need to be removed. It is up to the British Government, not the IRA, to do this.

The first step will be for Mr Major to supply the "clarifications" to the Downing Street declaration which Mr Adams has been demanding. Mr Adams has become more specific in his demands. He now acknowledges that by clarifications he means further concessions. The reference to Irish "self-determination" in the declaration is a step in the right direction, but until it is followed by further steps the "causes of the conflict" remain in place.

The concessions immediately required are two: the "Unionist veto" must be removed, and Britain undertake to "persuade" the Unionists to accept self-determination to an extent satisfactory to the IRA. The president of Sinn Féin does not say that he would then ask the IRA to abandon

Last act of an IRA confidence trick



The Heathrow mortars that blew apart Gerry Adams's "peace initiative"

its "armed struggle", or even accord a temporary ceasefire pending further concessions. Mr Adams makes clear that the IRA will continue its campaign until "the causes of the conflict" are removed.

Mr Major and Mr Reynolds must know by now that they have been conned by the IRA, via Gerry Adams working through John Hume, whom I prefer to regard as Mr Adams's dupe rather than as his accomplice. The Prime Ministers were sold a bill of goods consisting of two dud items. The first was that the IRA leaders were "war weary" and anxious to lay down their arms provided the British supplied them with a formula which would save their faces, enabling them

to claim they had not fought in vain. The "self-determination" bit in the declaration was tailored to meet that specification.

That the whole picture was a fraud is a point which hardly needs to be laboured after the latest bombing. The declaration has been, for the IRA, a tonic, heartening its members and sympathisers and boosting recruitment. Security sources now reckon the IRA's "active service" membership to be at an all-time high.

The second dud is the concoction of a bogus version of Mr Adams as an earnest seeker after peace. British governments have been suckers for this type of play for more than 20 years: a factor high among the

reasons why the IRA campaign has been so durable. I remember William Whitelaw, back in 1972, seeking confirmation from me of his impression that part of the IRA leadership was genuinely anxious for peace. I told him they were all anxious for peace on their own terms — "Brits out" — and none of them on any other terms. That is still the case.

Mr Adams's statements last week left no room, any longer, for illusions about that one. Those who have been conned must now be sickeningly aware of the fact. If they could bring themselves to admit it, that would be the beginning of wisdom, and of hope for the rest of us.

Purely defensive measures, such as

enhanced security in the City of London or the deployment of troops at Heathrow, may be necessary locally, but are politically worse than useless. They serve to advertise the power of the IRA, and the relative helplessness of the British Government. What is necessary is to take the initiative against the IRA leadership, which is known to include the versatile Mr Adams.

The great weakness of successive British governments is that they have given the impression that they are desperate in their anxiety to rid themselves of responsibility for Northern Ireland. The Downing Street declaration greatly fortified that impression. If the going-on at Heathrow have concentrated any minds, the message ought by now to be clear. As long as Northern Ireland remains part of the United Kingdom, the Government cannot divest itself of responsibility for it, and must act against those who seek to usurp that responsibility. If the Government decides to disengage from Northern Ireland, it should say so, and do so, forthrightly though the results would be, if as I believe, it has no intention of doing that, it must not merely stay, but govern.

The first step needed is to acknowledge that the Downing Street peace process has been killed by the IRA. The next is to put contingency plans for intervention on the agenda of the Anglo-Irish inter-governmental conference. This should be intervention on both sides of the border, applied to both sets of paramilitary godfathers, IRA and Loyalist. I believe there would be a widespread welcome for that in both islands in present circumstances, provided Mr Major sets about it firmly.

The triple targeting of Heathrow has brought the terrorist threat vividly home to hundreds of thousands of travellers and travellers' families, both British and Irish, who were previously only vaguely aware of such a threat.

Our methods, not our men

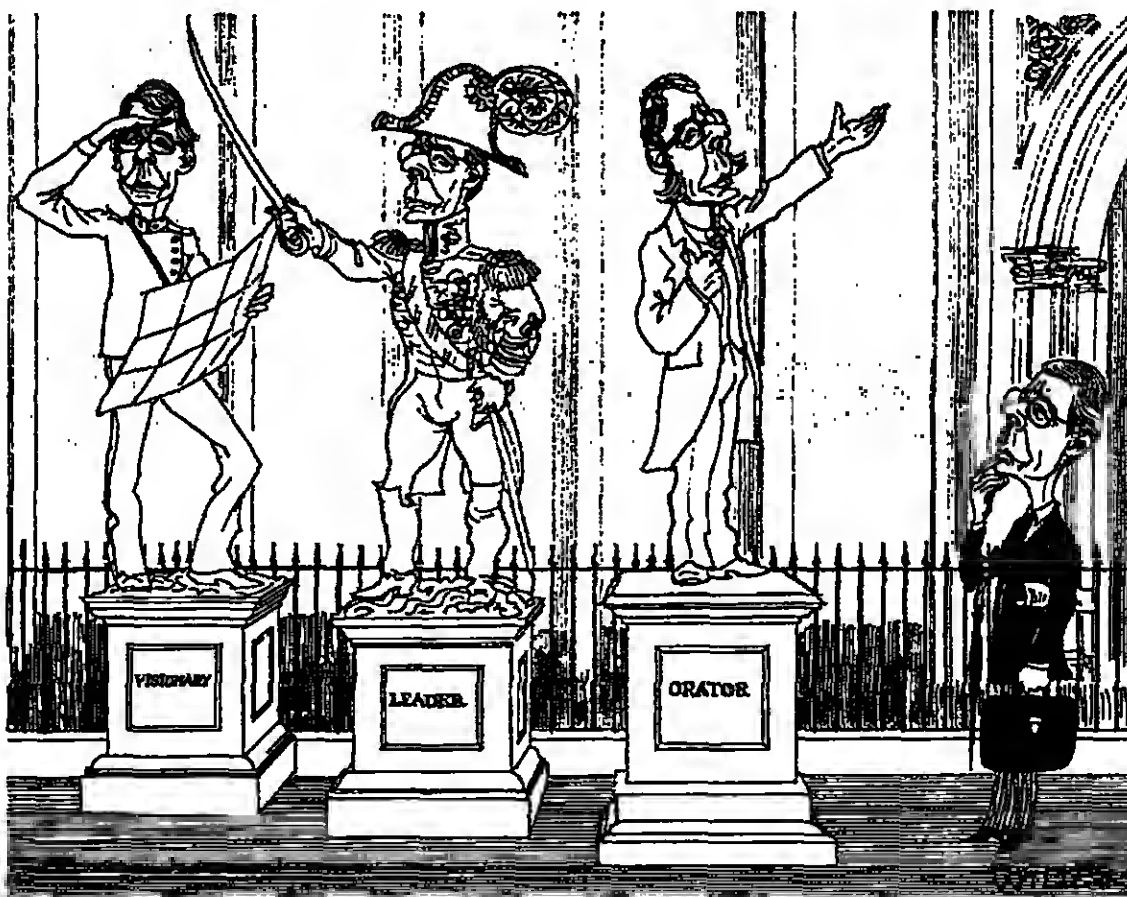
Peter Riddell asks what kind of Prime Minister Britain needs

Recent speculation about the Tory leadership misses a crucial point. This is not the matter of whether Kenneth Clarke or Michael Heseltine would do a better job than John Major. Nor is it what Mr Major yesterday described between clenched teeth as Kenneth Clarke's "engaging outburst of frankness and candour" about wanting to become leader. The central question is what type of Prime Minister Britain needs.

The Thatcher years were exceptional. Mr Major's premiership, already longer than those of Eden, Home and Callaghan, is nearer the post-war norm. He is a manager rather than a crusader.

The debate about whether Britain has prime ministerial or presidential government, argued by John Mackintosh and Richard Crossman more than 30 years ago, is largely sterile. Too much depends on personalities and how long someone has been in office. Comparisons with the United States also ignore the tight constraints on a US president. American academics now write about the imperial presidency rather than the imperial prerogative. A more revealing issue is why most premier-ships fail.

This question was prompted by an Institute of Contemporary British History seminar addressed by Nigel Lawson and Robert Armstrong, Chancellor of the Exchequer and Cabinet Secretary respectively during Lady Thatcher's central years. Lord Lawson said the power of the Prime Minister varied according to his or her political strength at any time. A steadily widening gap between Lady Thatcher and her colleagues made satisfactory Cabinet government more difficult to achieve. The cohesion and shared goals of



1979 disappeared and she became out of touch.

Lord Lawson's conclusion was that "the Prime Minister is not nearly as powerful as is widely made out". He described a mutual blackballing operation: not only can a Prime Minister block actions by a head of department, but a minister who is not spineless can usually stop a Prime Minister from getting something done in the department's area. Both Lord Lawson and Lord Armstrong argued that a minister's threat of resignation was also a powerful check. Although relatively few ministers help themselves by resigning, the very public act of leaving the Cabinet weakens a Prime Minister.

Mr Major has adopted a very different style as Prime Minister after the tumults of the Thatcher era. He is

an instinctive consultant rather than a confronter. He has ensured that all ministers' views are heard, so that they are committed to ensuing policies, whether on the Maastricht treaty or last autumn's public spending package. Issues, such as sending troops to Bosnia, are considered by relevant Cabinet committees, now more used than the *ad hoc* groups of the late Thatcher years.

However, the Government is obviously not working smoothly. Mistakes have been made, not just on economic policy but on legislation that has forced ministers to make concessions on key Bills. A frequent charge is that ministers are out of touch with Tory voters. Creeping

biateralism, identified by Lord Lawson as the weakness of a government in office for a long time, has not disappeared. Ministers are not thinking and behaving collectively as members of a Cabinet, but as separate heads of departments. There is little sense of a coherent strategy, as shown by the failure to discuss the implications of the back to basics approach before the slogan was launched at the Tory conference last October.

There are no obvious panaceas. Tinkering with the machinery of government, as in the 1960s and 1970s, is usually a waste of time. The machinery itself is seldom at fault. In the classic case of a policy failure, the poll tax, the textbook procedures for consultation and collective discussion were punctiliously followed. Lord

Lawson believes mistakes could be avoided if Prime Ministers were more willing to share power by discussing strategy collectively in some form of inner Cabinet.

This idea has been tried from time to time. Harold Wilson created an economic strategy committee which started off well, but gradually more and more excluded ministers were invited to attend and the point of having a smaller group was lost. Edward Heath did not have a formal inner Cabinet but did have a small group of ministers close to him, including Willie Whitelaw, Lord Carrington and, for most of the time, Jim Prior, but not the Chancellor and Foreign Secretary of the time, Anthony Barber and Alex. Home. Lady Thatcher had close friends such as Cecil Parkinson and Nicholas Ridley.

Most important to Lady Thatcher was the personal sounding board of Lord Whitelaw. According to Lord Armstrong, she came to depend on his temperament and instincts. Lord Whitelaw seldom said no to the Prime Minister, but when he did, she withdrew. He was like a nuclear deterrent, though Tory was accused of not standing up to her. In Lord Lawson's view, the process of government deteriorated after he resigned. What is needed is "an institutionalised Willie". Mr Major does not have such an adviser. There is no one in the Cabinet of independent standing and weight whom he can trust, apart from Douglas Hurd who is preoccupied overseas. Lord Wakeham, though valuable as a fixer of committee business, has never quite gained that position.

There are many, largely unappreciated, virtues in Mr Major's more managerial and collective style as Prime Minister. It is no good just calling for stronger leadership. The Government is suffering from an underlying erosion of momentum, authority and vitality as a result of being too long in office. That is hard to remedy, whoever is in charge. But Mr Major will not survive, or recover, unless he remembers Lord Armstrong's warning that Lady Thatcher did not pay enough attention to securing and retaining the support of Cabinet colleagues.

Zimmer framed

EVEN THE most pro-European government ministers found their counterparts on the Continent rather trying in the run-up to the memorable vote on the Maastricht treaty. And few were more exasperated, it appears, than Tristan Garel-Jones, the former minister of state at the Foreign Office.

A BBC documentary later this month goes behind the scenes with Garel-Jones as he attempts to smooth the passage of the Maastricht Bill. After a meeting with Emilio Colombo, former Italian Foreign Minister, Garel-Jones emerges shaking his head at the man's alleged senility. "That was about as near to hell as you can get," says an aide. "He is miles away. On another planet." Garel-Jones agrees: "Yes absolutely. [He needs] a Zimmer frame."

The minister openly criticises other European governments and draws heavily on his aides throughout the first instalment of *True Blue*. His non-smoking private secretary Tim Hitchens even supplies

the ministerial cigarettes: "You will never catch him without a couple of packets of Benson & Hedges," admits Garel-Jones.

But the cameras miss the minister's habit in European meetings of writing limericks about his Continental colleagues. "Occasionally he passed them to Douglas Hurd to finish," says a Foreign Office source.

● *Downside School in Somerset held an auction on Saturday of strange artefacts to raise money for old boys travelling in Third World countries. Other than the ceremonial parang from the Kayan tribe of headhunters in Borneo, the strangest lot was a 1912 bedpan. It sold for £25.*

Halloo there

WARWICKSHIRE'S Atherstone hunt notched up something of a victory this weekend at an extraordinary dinner where the guest of honour, Jilly Cooper, admitted she had confused fact with fiction.

Cooper was apologising to the Atherstone because she had invented a fictitious hunt of the same name in her book *Araminta's Wedding*, a licentious tale of life amid the landed classes. "I consulted Debrett's but not Baily's hunting directory. I will change the name before the paperback version is produced," she assured the hunt, which convened its last formal dinner more than a decade ago.

When Cooper first discovered her mistake, she sent copies of the hardback to the hunt's four joint-masters as a form of apology. Whether she will send them the paperback remains to be seen — her last

Any similarity to characters, living or dead is purely coincidental



DIARY

packages were mistaken for bombs and the police were called.

Russian roudale

AN EPICUREAN delegation of Britons was grazing wearily as it recovered in Russia this weekend from its annual bout of serious over-indulgence. The Savoy Gastronomes, open only to those who have worked in the Savoy Hotel's reception area, dined on caviar and cointreau de salmon on Friday night at a palace frequented by Rasputin in St Petersburg.

Joining the 50 members as a somewhat startled guest of honour at the Yusupov Palace for the vodka-laden annual dinner was the British consul in St Petersburg, Stuart Jack. "It usually gets pretty lively," admitted Julian Payoe, a

founding member, as he set off from Heathrow with a jerrycan of Poi-Roger tucked under his arm. "We've got another two cases in the hold."

Puff of hot air

A LIVELY start beckons for Radio Five Live, the sports and news station which begins transmitting at the end of the month. A pilot programme for one of the station's late-night chat shows, *After Hours*, broke up in chaos recently after one of the panellists stormed off for a cigarette.

It had been far from propitious when the star panellist, gangland villain "Mad" Frankie Fraser, turned up unexpectedly with his girl friend in tow and insisted she should sit on the panel, too.

"Then she got very uncomfortable during the discus-

sion," says a BBC source. "She walked out saying she was off for a cigarette." Fraser did not like her running off and chuckled in the microphone to follow his girl.

Male order

THE MALE undergraduates of Oxford's St Edmund Hall, a college where rugby and beer-drinking tend to be at the forefront of curricular activity, claim to have struck a blow for equality. They have just elected the university's first "men's officer" for their joint common room committee.

David Britz, a third-year engineering student, originally entered the elections as a joke. But he now believes Teddy Hall's male population needs help. "I think the fact that men are in the majority at St Edmund Hall is a source of some frustration," he says. The college's JCR president Alice Clay elaborates: "I suppose in this college it's the representation of the views of the unopposed majority." But others are less sure. "All a men's officer will do is squander JCR funds on men-only drinks parties," snorts a member of the minority.



Victoria and Conroy, the man who made her life hell

Victorian values of a different order

MORE tales of acrimony at Kensington Palace, the London home of the Princess of Wales, are about to hit the bookselves. And the details contained in *A Royal Conflict* by Katherine Hudson make such frolics as toe-sucking seem positively virtuous. Hudson deals with the extraordinarily arrogant behaviour of Sir John Conroy, the aide who oversaw the harsh upbringing of the young Princess Victoria. Conroy siphoned off hundreds of thousands of pounds, once

refused Victoria access to a doctor when she was at death's door, and tried to worm his way to becoming her private secretary. But what appears really to have stuck in Victoria's throat, giving rise to her description of him as a "monster and demon incarnate", was his assumption that he was her equal. The poor chap thought his family descended from George III, explains Hudson: "And this fantasy inspired, to an almost diabolical extent, the actions of his career."



SECURITY FIRST

An army guard for Heathrow would be a sound beginning

The British public did not have to wait long for the "spectacular" promised with deplorable relish by Gerry Adams last Thursday. Yesterday morning's third mortar attack on Heathrow airport was the closest that the IRA has come to causing loss of life in its latest phase of its mainland campaign. These attacks have been a clear signal of the republican movement's contempt for the peace process initiated by last December's Anglo-Irish declaration. But they have also signalled its continued determination to murder civilians and to damage Britain's economic interests.

Faced with such a challenge, a democratic society is entitled to take the measures necessary to protect its citizens and its prosperity. The public may be instinctively reluctant to endorse current proposals to use army tanks and troops in the defence of Heathrow; some will even feel this to be a victory for the men of violence. Yet in other countries soldiers take part in airport security measures as a matter of routine. After these attacks, the presence of troops at Heathrow is more likely to reassure foreign businessmen and tourists than to unsettle them. The British public should welcome such a measure if the Government has the courage to take it.

But ministers should not imagine that this will be sufficient response. They must first disentangle the question of security from the diplomatic agenda set by the declaration. There have been persistent rumours in the last few months that the security forces in the province have been discreetly urged not to arrest key IRA suspects while Sinn Féin is considering the Anglo-Irish offer of exploratory talks. True or not, these rumours need to be scotched by action north and south of the border. At present, there is a perilous vacuum in policy on both sides of the Irish Sea which the IRA is only too happy to fill.

John Major must hold the Irish Government to its promises to respond with appropriate measures if the declaration failed. Many of the criticisms levelled at the Republic concerning security arrangements have been unjustly harsh; but more could certainly be done to tighten cross-border co-operation. The British Army must be given the right to liaise directly with the Garda, rather than through the Royal Ulster Constabulary. British cars and helicopters should be given greater powers to pursue suspects into the South; and Albert Reynolds, the Taoiseach, must press ahead with his delayed extradition measures.

But specific security proposals of this kind have been before the Government for years. The underlying problem is the general approach which has governed recent British policy in the province. In November 1989, Peter Brooke, then Northern Ireland Secretary, claimed that military defeat of the IRA was "difficult to envisage... because of the circumstances in which they operate" and that the response to a republican ceasefire would therefore "need to be imaginative". This crucial admission set the trend for the British strategy of the last four years: an unnecessarily defeatist approach to security and a mistaken belief that Sinn Féin could be persuaded to accept the Unionist veto by the prospect of peace talks.

Regrettably, the Prime Minister's claim in an interview published yesterday that the declaration is "a permanent" suggested a stubborn refusal to acknowledge that this approach has failed. Meanwhile, the call for the reintroduction of selective internment is once again gaining momentum in response to the latest round of IRA attacks. Such a step would indeed be drastic. But if the Government is to resist such calls, it must soon produce a strategy better than its increasingly irrelevant declaration.

RAO'S AGENDA

There must be no slowdown in India's economic reform

Although uncharismatic in appearance and method, P.V. Narasimha Rao is the most revolutionary Prime Minister in the history of independent India. He arrived in London yesterday on a visit of considerable importance. Trade and investment in India's increasingly athletic economy will dominate the agenda; posturing and sermonising, for long the staple fare served by Indian politicians when travelling abroad, will not. Mr Rao is a pragmatic and businesslike man running an increasingly pragmatic and businesslike country.

After independence in 1947, a series of disastrous five-year plans modelled on Soviet methods saw India's entrepreneurial culture asphyxiated by an obese public sector. Private enterprise was beset by hostile economic policies and the periodic salvos of populist rhetoric fired against it. India was a dwarf in the global economy, and the poverty in which its population lived remained unabated.

Mr Rao has sought to change all that. His Finance Minister, Manmohan Singh, produced in July 1991 the most radical budget in the country's history. Fiscal and monetary reform, the lifting of many restrictions on foreign investment and the end of the "licence Raj" signalled to the world that the sacred cow of dirigiste economics had been returned to its corral. But the route to economic salvation is a long one. A number of reforms remain to be effected and the latest budget, announced earlier this month, was disappointing. Mr Rao and Dr Singh have chosen to tolerate a higher rate of public borrowing than is prudent in the circumstances. And the programme of privatisation of state-run enterprises continues to be too timid. There is no indication that restrictive labour laws are to be reformed.

Mr Rao may feel that the political costs of pushing the reforms to their logical conclusion would be too high. But this is not necessarily so: the government is at its highest ebb since he led his Congress party to victory in the polls of June 1991, conducted in the shadow of the assassinated Rajiv Gandhi. With new-found support from splinter groups he need fear parliamentary motions of no confidence no longer. And the next national elections are not until 1996.

But India does face serious internal problems. Secularism is under serious threat. The rise of the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has imposed a sense of caution on Mr Rao, fearful of that party's electoral appeal — despite its setback in recent regional elections. He has come under pressure from conservative elements within his party to undercut the BJP by adopting some of its less strident nationalist policies. But he should resist such pressure: a secular India guarantees political stability best. And economic growth is the best ally of secularism.

There are some aspects of Mr Rao's India which grate. The protection of human rights, particularly in Kashmir, has witnessed a worrying decline. The situation there hardly befits a country with India's ideals and aspirations. It is to be regretted that India, which in all other respects now looks west for its economic and political models, should in the sphere of human rights find common ground with countries further east. India shares with them no more than a continent; and not one of them can boast of a constitution or political process which matches India's. Mr Rao's India must be prosperous; but it must also be liberal. Such an India would be of inestimable value to the international community.

SPEECH IMPEDIMENT

Children learn to talk from parents, not from television

A disturbing report published today shows an increase in the number of pre-school children with difficulties in speaking or in understanding speech. The survey of more than 1,000 children was sponsored by British Telecom as part of its SpeakWatch campaign to focus attention on all forms of speech and hearing disability. No fewer than one-fifth of children between two and five years old have some impediment in their speech development. Researchers comment on the large number of children who seem to be failing to acquire the ability to comprehend language or to respond verbally in a way that is appropriate for their age.

Some expert opinion blames the decline of parental involvement in children's play. Experienced speech therapists cite the amount of time spent watching television rather than being actively engaged with participating parents. They have noted a number of children in this very young age group who are unable to communicate properly, but who can parrot television jingles without understanding them. These children appear to have memorised sounds without gaining the kind of verbal understanding learnt through real conversation.

While it would be difficult to prove a clear connection between the television-as-babysitter and retarded speech, this theory is persuasive enough to be alarming. Pre-school television addicts, whose parents rarely play with them, miss out on the crucial early steps in language: the word

games and repetitions which help to reinforce understanding. Even more important, by getting most of their exposure to words through the passive medium of television, they fail to acquire the social skills of language: the sense of its reciprocity. These children may go on to become introverted video-game or computer addicts, isolated by their inability to use language effectively and by the poverty of their social responses.

Adults who lead pressured lives can easily become complacent about their children's pastimes. Television offers a seductive temptation: it provides an engrossing stimulus which seems to keep toddlers safely mesmerised. Parents can delude themselves into thinking that daytime programmes are harmless and even educative. What they may fail to realise is just how important personal contact is to a child's ability to learn: acquiring language cannot be separated from a child's psychological development.

The experts cite the value of traditional games which make use of those skills most important in developing verbal abilities because they involve a reward of parental response to a child's progress. Asking questions and giving explanations, storytelling and play with toys which need a child's own imagination to animate them — like dolls or toy trains — should never be displaced by electronic media. These findings should be taken as a serious warning about how childhood may be impoverished by a wealth of technology.

Plea for action on toxic waste exports

From the Archbishop of York and others

Sir, The export of toxic waste by wealthy industrialised countries, for any purpose, represents an unacceptable abuse of the Third World and Eastern Europe. In October 1993, in Rome, Pope John Paul II described the practice of exporting toxic waste from rich to poor countries as "a grave abuse and an offence against the solidarity of humanity".

In a parliamentary answer on January 12, 1994, the Government argued that "recycling of wastes offers environmental benefits provided that adequate environmental standards are maintained". We disagree. This is an issue of justice and of our taking responsibility for our own actions. Jesus said: "Do to others as you would have them do to you." If the UK economy produces toxic waste, we should remain responsible for it. The UK should do all in its power to avoid the exploitation of countries that do not have the resources and infrastructure to enforce strong environmental standards.

At the last meeting of the Basel Convention which governs trade in hazardous waste, held in Piratopolis, Uruguay, in December 1992, the G77 group of over 100 Third World and East European countries called for a ban on all exports of toxic waste from the industrialised Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

On March 21, at the meeting in Geneva of the Basel Convention, the Danish government will put forward an amendment for debate which again calls for a ban. We urge the Government to reconsider its position, and to support the proposed ban on all exports of toxic waste to non-OECD countries, whether for disposal or any form of recycling.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN EBOR,
†KEITH PATRICK,
†JOHN ALOYSIUS WARD,
†JAMES BATH AND WELLS,
†PHILIP WORCESTER,
†MICHAEL ROFFEN,
†DAVID SARUM,
†THOMAS MORE,
c/o Bishopssthorpe, York,
March 11.

Tories and Europe

From Mr John Whittingdale, MP for Colchester South and Maldon (Conservative)

Sir, Anthony Teasdale (letter, March 11) is right that the draft Conservative manifesto for the European elections submitted to Mrs Thatcher in March 1989 met with her approval. However, this was not the first draft to be sent to her.

On February 10, 1989, Geoffrey Howe sent Mrs Thatcher a first draft with a request for her views about its themes, contents and length. It was this that was rejected by her and sent back for rewriting. In particular, she asked that the section on tax harmonisation be made stronger and that the section on economic and monetary co-operation be redrafted. It was only after this instruction had been given that the paragraphs stating the Conservative Party's opposition to economic and monetary union were added.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WHITTINGDALE
(Political Secretary to the Prime Minister, 1988-90),
House of Commons,
March 11.

Candidates' selection

From Mr Alan Duncan, MP for Rutland and Melton (Conservative)

Sir, Alice Thomson is fuelling a myth when she writes (report, March 7) that those who have worked in Conservative Central Office or as a ministerial adviser are on a fast track to the Commons. They enjoy no such privileged progress, nor do they form a large fraction of the 1992 intake as some suggest.

Each went through the same selection process as anyone else, although no doubt their experience of government will have counted in their favour. And, of the 63 Conservatives first elected in 1992, only six had spent any length of time as an adviser.

It has become fashionable to argue that the new Parliament is uniquely overloaded with those who have little or no experience outside politics, but such a charge simply does not stand up to scrutiny. A few anonymous quotes do not constitute a worthy analysis of either the calibre or the composition of the latest arrivals.

The Commons has always contained MPs who have been close to government before their own election, and there would be no virtue in denying Parliament the benefit of that experience. However, there are probably fewer such people in the last intake than in previous ones, and a proper study would reveal that there were rather more in the days of Butler, Maundling, Powell and Macleod.

Yours faithfully,
A. J. C. DUNCAN,
House of Commons,
March 9.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Hospital closures and nation's needs

From Sir Bernard Tomlinson

Sir, Although Lord Jenkin of Roding (letter, March 8) and Mrs Virginia Bottomley (article, February 17) have answered some of Lord Rees-Mogg's criticisms (February 14, March 3) about the closure of leading London hospitals, some additional points need to be made.

Over the last four decades, covering both Labour and Conservative administrations, medical advances have greatly reduced the length of time patients need to stay in hospital, enabling increasing numbers to be treated in ever fewer acute beds. London's hospitals have shared in this national trend and are likely to reach levels of patient throughput and increases in day surgery which would allow a further 2,700 beds to close in the next five years whilst yet more patients are treated through the remaining beds.

Aspects of the NHS reforms, particularly the more equitable distribution of funds to local populations, will reduce the number of people coming into London from surrounding areas for treatment and divert inner-London patients away from the most expensive hospitals. In some instances this has happened more quickly than my report in 1992 on inner-London health care expected.

However the principle that there should be a shift in the balance from costly high-technology hospitals towards more and better primary and community care is more important than the details of which hospitals should close.

Patients from outer London and the shires with rare or highly specialised conditions will continue to come to inner-London hospitals. However, it is obvious that the many small, specialised centres in London are equally in need of reorganisation into fewer, larger and more effective units. These changes are essential for the sake of optimum patient care, economy, teaching and research.

Lord Rees-Mogg (March 3) draws on Professor Brian Jarman's studies of the London health service to defend the status quo. In spite of what Rees-Mogg says, we did consider Professor Jarman's analysis during the deliberations which led to our report. His proposition that as acute hospital beds become surplus to requirement they should be replaced by beds for the elderly until a satisfactory position has been reached over all beds throughout all London is totally unacceptable.

If Jarman's proposals were implemented they would commit the spending of vast sums on acute hospitals which were redundant for the purposes they are intended to serve. They would condemn growing numbers of elderly patients to care in highly unsuitable environments. They would delay, through absorption of NHS funds, the greatly needed improvements in primary and community care. They would wreck the Government's intention to achieve equitable funding through population-based funding and would deny outer London and the peripheral districts of the metropolitan regions the eagerly awaited opportunity to improve services and redress the historically privileged levels of funding of the inner-London hospitals.

Rees-Mogg uses clinical outcomes determined by the quality of treatment as one reason for maintaining the status quo on acute hospitals in London. It has not, so far as I am aware, been established that the results of treatment of common conditions is better in London. If the case exists, the facts and figures must be published in the medical press as an urgent matter.

It was inevitable that a public and political battle would ensue to preserve the privileged position of London's major hospitals, irrespective of the fact that to continue their dominance would be detrimental to the further development of the health care of the population.

Yours sincerely,
BERNARD TOMLINSON
(Leader, Enquiry into London's Health Services, Education and Research, 1991-92),
Greyholme, Wymbury Road,
Low Fell, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear,
March 10.

ment and not need to care what they eat.

Perhaps a ban on food advertising to children would make children's television less interesting and encourage them to switch off altogether. If so, it would be a good thing.

Yours faithfully,
ALEXANDER MACNAIR,
20 Wimpole Street, W1,
March 2.

TV and diet

From Dr Alexander Macnair

Sir, Jeremy Laurance reports on the findings of the Coronary Heart Disease Prevention Forum (March 2). Key nutrients, missing from our children's diets, are iron and calcium. These are best supplied by red meat and milk, the very foods that the health experts tell us are full of saturated fat, the supposed cause of coronary heart disease. Children need adequate supplies of energy, best provided by fat, in order to achieve their full height potential. Have the experts got it wrong?

National surveys in the US show increasing fatness and decreasing fitness in children. Television is blamed there as here for promoting fatty foods.

To my mind a more rational approach is to blame television in all its forms for holding children in thrall. It is the almost complete absence of exercise which causes them to become fat, unfit and at risk of hypertension, diabetes, and atherosclerosis of the coronary and cerebral arteries.

If children could be persuaded to abandon the television for an hour or so each day in order to take on some physically challenging activity, they would achieve full physical development and not need to care what they eat.

Yours truly,
FREDERICK LAWTON,
1 The Village, Skelton, York,
March 8.

Ageism and toffee

From Mr E. C. Hulise

Sir, How very much I agree with Dr Barbara Reynolds's views in condemnation of ageism (letter, March 3). I am rising 83 and live alone with the support of two dachshunds. I am president of the Lewes National Trust Centre, vice-chairman of Lewes Group Civil Service Retirement Fellowship and chairman of the Ditchling Museum Trust.

And, pace your book reviewer of February 24, I do not suck toffees. I chew them with my own teeth!

Yours faithfully,
E. C. HULISE,
12 Beacon Road, Ditchling,
Hassocks, West Sussex,
March 3.

'No sense' to break up the Post Office

From the General Secretary of the Union of Communication Workers

Sir, Your report ("Heseline ready to sell most of the Post Office", Business, March 7) suggests that Tory MPs believe that breaking up the Post Office will be less unpopular electorally than privatising it. They are wrong.

Divorcing parcels and letters from the counters business makes no sense whatsoever. A quarter of the transactions conducted across post office counters are on behalf of the Royal Mail and Parcelforce. Of 3,092 delivery offices, 1,690, or 54 per cent, are attached to the local post office. If Royal Mail and Parcelforce are sold off to the private sector they will be forced to turn profit before public service.

Because of their current position in an integrated public-sector Post Office, they have a greater interest than most in supporting and maintaining a network that ensures that 65 per cent of villages have a post office whilst only 5 per cent have a bank. Breaking the link will therefore place this network in jeopardy by losing economies of scale and threatening existing contractual arrangements.

Shares for our members will count for little when the newly privatised Royal Mail abandons the second delivery, as it most definitely will, cutting out 27,000 jobs and affecting every community in the United Kingdom.

We have consistently opposed privatisation of the Post Office whilst arguing that it should be able to operate more competitively. The suggestion that Mr Heseline is about to split up the Post Office — probably the worst option of all — does not accord with the general view that he has recovered his political acumen.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN JOHNSON,
General Secretary,
Union of Communication Workers,
UCW House, Crescent Lane, SW4,
March 7.

City regulation

From Mr John Donaldson

Sir, It is clear that there is a need to rethink the nature of self-regulation of the financial services industry and the role of the Securities and Investments Board. The report (Business, March 8) that the SIB is looking for more powers, possibly on the lines of the American Securities and Exchange Commission, and the comment on the same day in your Pennington column that this would be no bad thing, are encouraging signs.

A number of basic questions remain open, however, such as: what should be enforced, on whom, and for what purpose? If practical standards are to be raised, how far can enforcement alone be relied upon?

But there are even more basic matters. "Self-regulation" in all sectors has come to mean regulation by the management groups of the supply side of the industry. This cannot provide a balance of the proper aspirations of the people directly affected, the clients and buyers in particular. It is arguable that the supply companies are the industry, but they are not the market. A better concept is "market self-regulation".

The problem is not that the UK financial services industry has been acting amorally. It has a powerful ethic, but it is management-driven, relying on the assumptions that top management goals of profit maximisation, competitiveness and modernity (and lapses from them) are the only things that matter.

Substantial fines now being levied will eventually be passed on to consumers. This will further perpetuate an unbalanced and unfair system of self-interest regulation by the industry's key people.

Composition, enforcement and revision of codes of practice for the industry need to be the responsibilities of all those who are subject to them or their supposed beneficiaries. Ethically dubious but common practices in which decision-makers are "judge and jury in their own cause" need to be replaced.

Ethical codes of practice should enshrine principles of distributive justice and natural justice, of which this country has in the past had reason to be proud.

The concepts, skills and methods to restore normative order in the industry do exist, but they have been ignored to everyone's cost and to the detriment of the industry itself.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN DONALDSON
(Chairman), Centre for Service Management Studies,
14 Charvil House Road,
Reading, Berkshire,
March 8.

Productivity indicators

From Dr G. H. Tattersall

Sir, The state of this country was pretty clearly indicated by your published lists of successes in professional examinations — over two pages of chartered accountants (February 19) and about three quarters of a page of chartered engineers (March 8).

Yours faithfully,
G. H. TATTERSALL,
174 Millhouses Lane,
Sheffield, South Yorkshire,
March 10.

OBITUARIES

SIR EDMUND COMPTON

Sir Edmund Compton, GCB, KBE, Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration, 1967-71, died on March 11 aged 87. He was born on July 30, 1906.

EDMUND COMPTON was Britain's first "Ombudsman", a job officially known — but less commonly recognised — by the title of Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration. His appointment was announced by Harold Wilson in 1966 after Compton had already served nine years as Comptroller and Auditor General and had passed the normal civil service retiring age of 60.

At the time the Prime Minister spoke of bringing Compton "back into active service" — and there was some validity to that since, in the view of his admirers, his talents had tended to be wasted in the important but essentially post hoc office of being the chief official attached to the Commons Public Accounts Committee. But the real motive behind his appointment — announced so long in advance that, in Wilson's words, "it led to a factious parliamentary row" — lay in the Prime Minister's need to find a berth for a displaced Whitehall permanent secretary, who was thereby enabled to step into Compton's shoes as Comptroller and Auditor General.

It was not the most propitious launch-pad for someone required to make constitutional history. At least, however, Compton was eminently qualified for the novel task he had been given. His career as a civil servant, mainly in the Treasury, had been a distinguished one and his spell with the Public Accounts Committee (where one of the chairmen he served under was Wilson) meant that he knew every nook and cranny of Whitehall.

To his credit, he brought to the job of Ombudsman, where he was expected to investigate weaknesses or failures of administration insofar as they had done injustice to individuals, the same searching mind and critical spirit that he had displayed in calling in book the accounting officers in the various Whitehall departments. By the time he retired at the age of 65 in 1971 he had established the credibility of the Ombudsman's post, winning particularly high marks for the way in which he approached his responsibilities in Northern Ireland, the province having been added to his grievance parish in 1969.

Edmund Gerald Compton was born in Chile. His father was in business there but returned to England to fight in the First World War, living afterwards near Rugby. It was natural, therefore, that his son should go to school at Rugby, passing in an unprecedented high place into the Upper School. At Oxford, where he was a scholar of New College, he took a first in Greats and shortly afterwards passed third into the Home Civil Service. After brief periods at the Ministry of Labour and the Colonial Office, he was transferred (as befitted a prospective high-flyer) to the Treasury. Within three years he was appointed



private secretary to the then Financial Secretary, the turbulent and choleric Alfred Duff Cooper, an experience that was in some measure to prepare him for the even greater ordeal of being principal private secretary to Lord Beaverbrook.

He served the press magnate turned Cabinet minister first at the Ministry of Aircraft Production in 1940 and then at the Ministry of Supply in 1941. It says much for Compton's equable and versatile temperament that he was able to adapt to Beaverbrook's unorthodox methods of doing business as easily as he did. In retrospect he was always to look back on his "years of service to the Lord" as a stimulating and educative — though not always enjoyable — experience.

Returning to the Treasury in 1942 as an assistant secretary, with subsequent promotion to under-secretary in 1947 and third secretary in 1949, he spent most of his time in home finance, of which, after two years on the supply side and a short period in charge of liaison with the US Economic Mission, he was head for seven years. Here he was dealing with monetary control and policy, on which he became expert. Two important special duties fell to him. One was the primary responsibility for relations between the Treasury and the Bank of England. He fostered a close and harmonious relationship between Great George Street and Threadneedle Street, which helped him to reorganise and expand the provision of financial statistics. The other was the task of giving the main Treasury evidence to the Radcliffe Committee on the Monetary and Credit System. His evidence occupied six chapters of the printed minutes. The mystery, since he stayed at the

rank of third secretary for nine years, has always been why he did not rise higher in the Treasury. The short, though not necessarily the wrong, answer is that he would almost certainly have done so if a Labour Government had remained in power. He was particularly close to the three successive Labour Chancellors of 1945-51, Hugh Dalton, Sir Stafford Cripps and Hugh Gaitskill, and it may be that this led to his being treated with some reserve once Churchill and the Conservatives came back to office in 1951. As it was, when the invitation to become the next Auditor General was issued to him in 1958, it was fairly obviously intended to be an offer he could not refuse (though his former patron, Dalton, was not alone in thinking it an awful waste).

At least, the new job raised his public profile. His reports to the Public Accounts Committee were remarkably vigorous and readable, as well as being models of clarity, and they attracted a more than usual amount of public attention. He left a few government departments slightly red in the face, since he uncovered serious irregularities in the handling of several large and important government contracts, including the controversial "fixed price" contract with the Ministry of Aviation.

His final job as Parliamentary Commissioner may well have proved narrower in scope than he had at first anticipated, being limited by the legislation (on which Wilson had jumped the gun in announcing his appointment) to complaints against wrongful administration on the part of government departments, forwarded by the appropriate members of Parliament, and excluding the local author-

ties, the National Health Service, the armed forces and the police. Nevertheless, he made the most of it and in the early days handled one much-publicised case when he investigated the Foreign Office's refusal to pay compensation to 12 survivors of the Sachsenhausen concentration camp. He found against the Foreign Office and obliged it to reverse its decision and pay the victims compensation.

His success as the mainland Ombudsman led to his appointment also as Ombudsman for Northern Ireland and this, in turn, prompted his selection as chairman of an enquiry into alleged mistreatment of prisoners suspected of belonging to the IRA. He reported that the methods of interrogating prisoners, when they included a combination of hooding, continuous noise and enforced physical posture, amounted to "physical ill-treatment". This report led to compensation totalling some £150,000 being awarded to the prisoners concerned and to the appointment of another committee to consider what methods of interrogation might properly be used. It was also cited as major evidence by the Irish Republic's government when it brought a human rights case against the British Government in the European Court.

On his retirement in 1971 Compton was much in demand for various part-time public services. The most important of these was the chairmanship of the Local Government Boundary Commission, which he held from 1971 to 1978. Other tasks which he undertook included a report on the staffing and administration of the House of Commons, a report on medical services in the armed forces and the chairmanship of the BBC Complaints Commission, which office he occupied, 1972-81.

Alike in private and official life, Compton possessed a warm and friendly personality. Although physically small, he was a fair performer in athletic sports in his younger days. His interests were many, ranging from fly-fishing to reading (Greek and Latin as well as English) but his special passion was music. He was a competent violinist and a lifelong member of the Bach Choir. It was a great pleasure to him when he was elected chairman of the Royal Academy of Music after he had been a member of its governing body for 15 years and had been elected an honorary fellow. He was active in the Anglican Church and was for a period chairman of its Central Board of Finance, as well as holding the humbler post of churchwarden at his local Kensington church. He was also for several years chairman of the governing body of Rugby School. He was appointed KBE in 1955, KCB in 1965 and GCB in 1971.

He married in 1934 Betty Tresillian Williams who shared his interest both in the Church and in music. They had a large family, four daughters and one son, all of whom were musical — they could, indeed, manage a very reasonable chamber-music concert between them in their Evelyn Gardens home. His wife died in 1987 and he is survived by their children.

SIR HENRY TATE

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Henry Tate, 4th Bt, DL, Master of the Cottesmore Hounds, died on March 11 aged 91. He was born in Bromborough, Cheshire, on June 19, 1902.

THE great-grandson of his namesake, the first baronet, who founded Henry Tate & Son (the forerunner of Tate & Lyle) in 1858, Henry Tate had no head for the family sugar business. Instead, after nearly eighty years still riding to hounds, he became a legend in the hunting world. Co-founder of the three-day event at Burghley and master, chairman and president of the Cottesmore — the hunt at which the Prince of Wales made his debut in the shires — Tate dedicated his life to his adopted county of Rutland.

His long association with the Cottesmore began in 1927 as an amateur huntsman. Tate was then stationed in London with his regiment, the Grenadier Guards, but stabled his horses at the Crown Hotel in Oakham High Street, and hunted with the Belvoir and the Cottesmore as often as he could. In 1932, having retired from the Army, he moved to the area permanently, living first at Launde Abbey, near Uppingham, and later Preston Lodge (which he built himself), near Oakham. Tate was master of the Cottesmore, 1946-53, later chairman and on his retirement its president, a post created for him. From the early 1950s the opening meet of the Cottesmore was always held at Preston Lodge, the woodlands behind Tate's house being considered superb covers and invaluable assets in bad weather when the hounds could hunt them for hours.

Tate also became a figure in the evening world after his friend the late Marquess of Exeter was asked, in 1960, if he would host a three-day event at Burghley. The Marquess agreed, but with one condition: that Tate should run the event as deputy president. At first there were rumours about the choice, in the evening world — Tate being considered an amateur — but Exeter insisted and eventually the condition was met, wisely as the outcome showed. Tate formed and directed a team which, over the years, ensured that Burghley stayed one of the top two three-day events.

In 1975 the Crown Equerry, Lieutenant-Colonel Sir John Miller, approached Tate and explained that the Prince of Wales, who had recently taken up the sport, wished to make his debut in the shires. It was typical of Tate to ensure that the Prince's first visit should be a friendly, low-key one to a small meet of the Cottesmore at his own home. Tate had often met the Prince's great-uncle — Edward VIII when he was still the Prince of Wales — at hunts in the 1920s.

Henry Tate was the son of Sir Ernest Tate, the third baronet. His early life was spent in North Wales where his family had an estate; his earliest hunting started there with the Flint and Denbigh, of which he claimed to be the

oldest surviving member. Educated at Uppingham, his academic record was, in his own word, "abysmal". Later, when he was a governor of his old school, he delighted the boys by arriving in his full master's "rig" on horseback for early morning governors' meetings before trotting off to the meet.

Commissioned into the Grenadier Guards from Sandhurst, he joined his regiment in 1922. There he was one of the few officers to be wounded on non-active duty. On a severely cold winter day in 1928 on the parade ground at Wellington Barracks, his boots froze to the spot, causing him to trip on his spurs and break an ankle.

When his regiment was stationed at Aldershot, he managed to fit in hunting with the Leconfield in Sussex, and from Windsor he hunted with the Household Brigade Dragoon, and won point-to-point and National Hunt races. By the early 1930s, after his retirement from the Army, he turned fulltime to hunting, farming and shooting in Rut-

land to his nature which came out in his love of art. After succeeding his father in 1939 he researched into the circumstances of the establishment of the Tate Gallery in 1897 and unearthed the original correspondence between his family and two former Prime Ministers — the Marquess of Salisbury and the Earl of Rosebery — which led to his family's art collection being donated to the nation in 1890. He encouraged his wife Naima, formerly a competent pianist, to take up painting after her fingers were crushed in a car door. And one of his prized possessions was an oil painting by his friend Edward Seago showing a stretch of the best Cottesmore country, now submerged by the huge reservoir of Rutland Water.

Tate sat on Rutland County Council, 1958-74 and was high sheriff, 1949-50. In the early 1960s, when the Local Government Commission for England tried to amalgamate England's smallest county into Leicestershire, Tate made sure that Rutland's crusade



land. As the young master of Launde Abbey, he would sometimes be called upon to fill in for the local parson when he was absent by taking the chapel service. "Never preached but often read out a leader from *The Times*. Kept them on their toes."

Though Tate volunteered for the 8th Battalion of the Royal Welch Fusiliers (TA) during the Second World War, when he was promoted to lieutenant-colonel, he saw no active service abroad. But in the mid-1950s — on the pretext of the increasingly unstable political situation in Eastern Europe — he did succeed in re-establishing and commanding the 1st Battalion of the Rutland Home Guard. This he frequently deployed on night manoeuvres in order to unsettle poachers.

Tate had a thoughtful side

for continued independence was backed up by an effective public relations drive. But later, in 1974, when the two counties were joined, he bowed to the inevitable and urged Rutlanders to look forward. He continued to hunt until he was 78 when, crippled with arthritis, he was forced to stop. Even then he could be seen at meets on foot, supported by sticks.

He married Naima Oregan-Ellis in 1927. Tate was devastated by her death in 1984, but married very happily again in 1988. Edna Stokes, who had for many years run the Rutland Agricultural Society. She survives him together with two sons from his first marriage. The eldest son, Henry Saxon Tate, formerly chairman of the London Futures and Options Exchange, becomes the fifth baronet.

NORTON MORLING

Norton Morling, industrialist, died on February 6 aged 84. He was born at Hunsdon, Hertfordshire, on February 13, 1909.

NORTON MORLING was a leader in the asbestos industry's efforts to resolve its health dangers and, later, a founder member of the Civil Aviation Authority and an industrial adviser to the National Economic Development Office.

As, successively, production then managing director and finally chairman of Turner Brothers Asbestos in Rochdale, the world's largest manufacturer of asbestos textiles, Morling worked hard to reduce the incidence in his workforce of asbestosis (the progressive clogging of the lung, similar to the miner's affliction, silicosis).

In 1952 he was one of the founders of the Asbestos Research Council, a consortium of leading industry members which, in 1954, commissioned research from Dr John Beattie of Cambridge and Dr (later Sir) Richard Doll of the Medical Research Council, subsequently the well-known Oxford lung cancer statistician. Their work



proved that the incidence of asbestosis had indeed been considerably reduced, but that the disease was also responsible for a second problem among the workforce: a greater propensity to lung cancer than in the general population.

From 1951 onwards Morling prepared the transfer of the manufacturing capacity of J.W. Roberts, an associate company situated in Leeds, to a new plant at Hindley Green. This transfer was part of his effort to improve working conditions, as well as to increase manufacturing efficiency. The Leeds plant was

finally closed in 1959, before the confirmation in 1960 of a third asbestos-related health problem, mesothelioma (a rare cancer of the pleura). Turner Brothers Asbestos was the original operating company of Turner and Newall, the leading asbestos-based industrial conglomerate.

Norton Morling was the son of a successful tenant farmer at Hunsdon but, after his father's death in 1916, the family moved to Ware. Morling was head boy at Hertford Grammar School, and won a scholarship to St Catherine's Society, Oxford. In his first term he gave up history for economics, then starting his golden age at Cambridge. After he had attained a first in Part I of the Tripos, J.M. Keynes invited him to join the Political Economy Club. This met in Keynes's rooms in King's every Monday evening. Morling, who rowed for his college in his final year, slipped to a 2d in Part II of his finals. Then, after taking a Master of Commerce degree at Birmingham in 1930, he joined Turner and Newall in Rochdale as one of its first management trainees.

In early 1939 he was sent by Sir Samuel Turner to southern Africa, to report on T & N's

asbestos mines. When war intervened, following a similar visit to Australia on behalf of the War Office, Morling had his reserved occupation status overruled and joined the RASC.

Posted in November 1942 to AFHQ in Algiers as a lieutenant, he served in the Petrol Directorate throughout the Italian campaign, being demobilised in 1945 as a lieutenant-colonel. After the war he returned to Turner and Newall and rose to become chairman of Turner Brothers Asbestos.

In 1960 Morling became chairman of Perod, another T & N subsidiary, opening up joint ventures in Spain, Italy, Germany, Australia and South Africa. He then became finance director of Turner & Newall in 1964, introducing budget controls and forward planning.

Following the appointment of a new chairman, Norton Morling left the T & N board in 1967 and was appointed an industrial adviser at the National Economic Development Office. There he set up "little Neddies" for the motor industry and for management education.

After joining the Air Transport Licensing Board in 1970,

Morling became a founder member of the Civil Aviation Authority, established in 1971 and chaired by John (later Lord) Boyd-Carpenter. With Douglas Bader as a fellow member, Morling championed the efforts of Freddie Laker to open up the Atlantic routes to more competition.

From the time of his retirement in 1975, Norton Morling became active in the Conservative Party. Here he was unusual in being an energetic supporter of proportional representation. His concern was that no one in the party had adequately studied the effects of PR on a Conservative heartland, and that no clear choice had been made between the single transferable vote system (STV) and the additional member system (AMS). His study of the Hampshire constituencies showed that STV would bring greater proportionality than any other system, and was likely to cause only marginal losses of Conservative seats, which would be more than made up in Labour-held areas.

Norton Morling married Rachel Chapman of Johannesburg in 1942. She survives him, together with a daughter and a son.

TENGIZ ABULADZE

Tengiz Abuladze, Georgian film director, died on March 6 aged 78. He was born in Kutaisi, Georgia, on January 31, 1914.

TENGIZ ABULADZE was a director whose best-known film, *Repentance* (1984), became a symbol in the former Soviet Union for the political changes spearheaded by Mikhail Gorbachev.

Abuladze took as his scenario the effects on a small Georgian town of the death of their well-respected mayor — something of an amalgam of

Stalin and Beria — whose atrocious crimes are only revealed to the trusting townspeople after his burial. Told in a series of nightmarish flashbacks, few Soviet films so epitomised the spirit of glasnost. The film was finally cleared for mass distribution two years after its completion.

Educated at Chota Rustaveli Theatre Institute, Tbilisi, Georgia, Abuladze made his first film in 1953. His subsequent works, including *The Plea* (1968) and *The Wishing Tree* (1976), made him one of the better-known directors in the Soviet Union, though they

did not ravel well. In 1988 Abuladze was awarded the Lenin Prize. He was elected to the Soviet parliament in 1990 and served as a people's deputy until 1991.

IN THE obituary of C.H. Rolph (March 12) it was incorrectly stated that he is survived by a daughter from his first marriage and a son and a daughter from his second. In fact, he leaves two daughters and a son from his second marriage, his daughter from his first marriage having predeceased him.

University news

Manchester
Appointment to chairs
Anthony B. Crowley, at present Senior Lecturer in English in the University of Southampton, is to be Professor of Modern English Literature.

John Victor Pickstone, Senior Lecturer in the History of Science, Technology and Medicine, and Director of the Centre for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine, is to be Professor of the History of Science, Technology and Medicine, from a date to be arranged.

Roger John Flynn, Reader in Mathematics, is to be Professor of Pure Mathematics.

Readerships
The following Senior Lectures to be Readers in the subject named from March 1:
Dr J. Baxton, Geriatric Pathology (in the Department of Pathological Sciences); Dr C. Hilary Buckley, Pathological Sciences; Dr R.J. Cohen, Radio-Astronomy; Dr G.M. Coulson, Education; Dr P. D. M. A. Mann, Neuropathology; Dr Ruth C. Matthews, Medical Microbiology (in the Department of Pathological Sciences); Dr P. A. Martin, Mathematics; Dr Valerie E. Newton, Audiology (in the Department of Educational Studies); Dr W. E. R. Oller, Immunogenetics (in the Departments of Pathological Sciences and of Public Health and Epidemiology); Dr C. P. Sibley, Child Health and Physiology; Dr T. N. Stevenson, Engineering; Dr Geoffrey Thornton, Chemistry; Dr J. C. Whitehead, Chemistry; Dr G. R. Wickham, Mathematics.

Senior Lectureships
The following Lectures to be Senior Lecturers from October 1:
Dr D. V. Anstey, Education of the Deaf (Department of Educational Studies); Dr D. J. Axtell, Radio-Astronomy; Dr G. J. Brooke, Biblical Studies (Department of Religious and Theological Studies); Dr L. A. Gifford, History of Art; Dr P. E. Chyng, Child Health; Dr J. D. Clements, Geology; Dr David Collison, Chemistry; Dr R. J. Davis, Radio-Astronomy; Dr J. S. Gajjar, Mathematics; Dr L. A. Gifford, History of Art; Dr P. E. Chyng, Child Health; Dr R. K. Grens, Immunology (Department of Biological Sciences); Dr E. L. Guthrie, Psychiatry; Kenneth Hartman, Physical Education; Dr G. D. Lafferty, Physics; Dr C. B. McCully, English Language and Literature; Dr A. J. Masters, Chemistry; Dr C. M. Merrifield, Civil Engineering; Dr Simon Miller, Sociology; Dr S. R. Parker, German; Dr M. N. Schmidt, Poetry (Department of English Language and Literature and in the Manchester Poetry Centre); Dr John Smart, Engineering Management (Department of Engineering); Dr J. F.

Weiner, Social Anthropology; R. I. West, Teaching of English Overseas (Department of Educational Studies). The following Honorary Clinical Lecturers to be Honorary Clinical Senior Lecturer from March 1:
Dr M. Z. Moghul, Child Health; Dr A. K. Webb, Medicine.
The following Honorary Associate Lecturers to be Honorary Clinical Senior Lecturers from March 1:
Dr M. R. Bridges, Psychiatry; Dr R. M. Davies, Preventive Dentistry (in the Department of Oral Health and Development); Dr T. L. Doman, Medicine.
Dr P. T. Farrell, Temporary Tutor, to be Senior Tutor in Educational Studies, from October 1.
Dr M. R. Hicks, Staff Tutor, to be Senior Staff Tutor in the Department of Extra-Mural Studies, from October 1.
Dr T. A. Henry, Honorary Lecturer, to be Honorary Senior Lecturer in Engineering, from October 1.
Appointments:
Lecturer in Physics: T. R. Wyatt.
Administrative Assistant in the Finance Department: Lucy V. Crompton, B. A. McCull.

COLONIAL AND FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

THE COLLIERY DISASTER IN FRANCE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

PARIS, March 13
The most striking news from the scene of the mining disaster at Courrières is the favourable impression made by the method and the devotion shown by a German fire brigade which came spontaneously to offer assistance. The Havas Agency says it is affirmed that the men have come at the suggestion of William II. They are a special body organised by the Hibernia Mine, in Westphalia, which is very subject to fires. Their first descent into the mine, whether they were preceded by a French search party accompanied by French engineers, took place about 5 o'clock last evening, and they only ceased their work, which they undertook in relays, at 4.30 this morning. They recovered in all 25 bodies, which were in an advanced state of decomposition, at the same time covering with lime the carcasses of the horses over which they had to climb in their work. The total number of bodies brought to the surface up to this morning was 68.

ON THIS DAY

March 14 1906

Twelve hundred men lost their lives in this appalling mining disaster at Courrières.

The Philippines (now a republic) were ceded to the USA by Spain in 1898.

To-day's papers are full of heartrending descriptions of the identification of the victims by their wives and families, an identification which was extremely difficult owing to the terrible mutilation of the charred and crushed bodies. All accounts agree as to the state of nervous excitement which prevails among the population and which has given rise to certain apprehensions as to disturbances at the public funeral which was yesterday decided upon by the Prefect and the local mayors. Thus far, however, no disturbances

are reported to have taken place at this ceremony, which was attended by the Bishop of Arras, who delivered a sermon and read a telegram of condolence from the Pope, as well as by M. Dubief, Minister of the Interior, and a number of other official personages. After some speeches by the latter, including M. Dubief, who promised that the families of the victims would not be left without assistance, a Socialist Deputy attacked the mining company. A still more violent speech was delivered, after the departure of the official personages, by a working-class delegate, whose remarks were greeted with cries of "Down with capital!" "Down with the assassins!"

THE AMERICAN VICTORY IN THE PHILIPPINES

MANILA, March 13
General Wood, replying to Mr Taft's inquiry for an explanation as to the alleged deaths of women and children in the battle of Davao Hill, states that there was no wanton destruction of women and children. Many of them were killed because the Moros used them as shields in the hand-to-hand fighting and because many of the women, clad in male attire, were fighting desperately, so that it was impossible to distinguish sex.

Two and a half million Britons have speech and language difficulties. This special report on a week-long campaign to help them is by **Widget Finn**

When words are not enough

The SpeakWatch campaign, which starts today, aims to encourage wider understanding of the 2.5 million Britons with speech and language difficulties, particularly the children. The campaign, sponsored by BT, has been initiated by the College of Speech and Language Therapists and the Association of Speech and Language Therapy Managers.

Shirley Davis, professional director of the College of Speech and Language Therapists, says: "Speech and language difficulties are the most common of all pre-school problems. When spotted early, they can be alleviated or overcome altogether. But if nothing is done, a child's progress in school can be severely affected."

"Parents, doctors and health visitors play a vital role in the early detection of these problems. Through the SpeakWatch campaign, we hope to make these people more aware of the signs that a baby or small child may need some professional help."

At eight months, Joshua McGuire was saying words such as balloon and baby. By two years, his speech had become unintelligible to anyone except Lynn, his mother. Health visitors told her that he was just reacting to his new baby sister and would grow out of it.

At nursery school, Joshua was hyperactive and teased by the other children, who asked whether he was Scottish because they could not understand him. He made little progress at primary school: at seven, he was unable to write his name, and when speaking used the wrong words or put them in the wrong order.

Joshua joined a language unit attached to his school at High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, and within a few months could make himself understood. His difficult behaviour disappeared. Now Joshua is well adjusted and reads enthusiastically. His mother describes the transformation within a year as "phenomenal".

One child in eight starts school with a speech or language difficulty,



ty, which can affect his learning ability and social life. Many of the problems are preventable; others can be treated, particularly if they are detected at an early stage.

Speech and language difficulties in children have several causes but, because the rate at which we learn to speak varies widely, they are not always easily identified. Some problems are hereditary, others are caused by a head injury or are due to non-specific reasons.

Parents, doctors and health visitors play a vital role in the early detection of these problems

Children can have an obvious defect, such as a cleft palate, or mental disabilities, such as cerebral palsy or Down's Syndrome, which will affect their understanding and speech. Children frequently have a hearing problem — "glue ear" is the most common — which will affect their progress in talking.

Other children may have no apparent physical or neurological disorder and yet find it difficult to communicate. A child with a specific language disorder, whose brain cannot decipher the symbols for speech and language, may still have hearing and intelligence within the normal range.

Almost all speech and language difficulties can be helped with therapy, so the earlier they are

diagnosed the better, says Dr Pam Enderby, director of speech and language therapy research at Frenchay Hospital, in Bristol. "Therapy can begin at around the age of two or earlier," she says. "But it is vital to have specialist diagnosis to establish whether a child's delayed development is caused by a learning or hearing problem. Often the mother — particularly one with a first child — doesn't know what is 'normal' development and will not realise that she may need professional advice."

The SpeakWatch campaign is targeting new mothers by distributing leaflets at clinics, playgroups and doctors' surgeries. The leaflets explain speech and language difficulties and suggest ways in which parents can help their children in learning to talk.

Children and their teachers also need to understand people's communication problems, says Mrs Davis. The SpeakWatch campaign has distributed a special project pack linked to the curriculum to more than 8,000 schools. It includes a Tell a joke for SpeakWatch competition, inviting children to send in their five funniest jokes.

Special events during the week are being organised throughout the country. In west Berkshire, therapists are holding story sessions in ten main libraries, and a competition and questionnaire aimed at parents will be available at doctors' surgeries in the area.

Coventry City football players are having their mouths taped up for a silence competition, and the Theatre Royal in Newcastle-upon-Tyne is inviting children with special needs to a language workshop. Dawn House School, in Nottingham, is organising a helpline with Radio Nottingham, and Greenwich schools are holding a competition to design a communications aid.

"We take talking so much for granted," says Mrs Davis. "SpeakWatch Week reminds us to consider those who can't easily make themselves understood."



All members of the family can give encouragement to a child, particularly with books, an important part of learning to speak

'He's using language instead of his fists'

Recognising slow speech development is the first step to curing the problems

Mothers often dread that question from a well-meaning busybody at the clinic or supermarket: "Isn't he speaking (or crawling or walking) yet?" It is an excuse to boast about their own child. But it can sow seeds of doubt in a mother's mind.

What should you look for if you suspect that your child's speech development is slow? The rate at which children develop language varies widely but usually children are using simple words at the age of two years, forming simple sentences at three and using understandable speech by four.

At the age of three only Jason Hood's mother could understand what he was saying, but Anita Hood did not realise anything was wrong. "I thought the way he spoke was normal for children of his age. He had a lot of ear and

throat infections. Then the consultant who took out his tonsils asked if he was having speech therapy."

Jason mispronounced words, like 'du' for shoe and 'dirt' for girl. He got very angry when people didn't understand him and other children made fun of him.

Last September Jason started speech and language therapy at his local hospital, concentrating on one sound at a time. "He's learning to use language instead of his fists," says Mrs Hood.

Language-impaired children, like Jason, get frustrated because they cannot make people understand them. They try to get attention through noisy or difficult

behaviour, or go to the opposite extreme and become withdrawn. These children may be hyperactive and have a short attention span, says Brian Jones, chief executive of I Can, a charity which provides services for children with speech and language impairments.

"In some cases they are unable to recognise rhyming words, or distinguish between words which sound similar," says Mr Jones. "They may not connect meaning with particular sounds, using 'dog' to describe all four-legged animals or one particular breed. At school they will have reading problems."

Although these children may apparently speak well, concepts such

as love or time are beyond their grasp. They use words literally; if asked "Can you move your case?" will reply "Yes" without understanding the implication. Other language-impaired children have problems putting words in sequence, saying "Tea I would like some." Often they use two-word sentences long after babyhood.

If you are worried about your child's progress in talking, discuss your concerns with your health visitor or doctor. Norma Corkish, director of the Association for All Speech Impaired Children (Afasic), advises: "Gather lots of detail about what your child can and cannot do. Observe what he is picking up or copying, what sounds he can vocalise. Note positive things as well as the negative."

● I Can 071-2539111; Afasic 071-2363632

We are very pleased to be able to sponsor this initiative to raise public awareness of speech and language problems.



'I CAN'

Slow but sure progress for the children others laugh at

The film *A Fish Called Wanda* was more than a box-office success. It had an unforeseen spin-off which changed the lives of children like Peter Corral.

In the film, Michael Palin played a character who, like Palin's father, had a bad stammer. Controversy over the portrayal drew attention to a speech impediment which is often a source of embarrassment or even ostracism to onlookers. Because of his personal interest, Michael Palin lent his name to the UK's first specialist centre for stammering children, which opened in 1991.

Peter Corral was four when his parents brought him to the Michael Palin Centre for Stammering Children, to be assessed. He was intelligent and had a wide vocabulary, but his speech could not keep up with his thoughts. He would

Stammerers from all over Britain are helped at a pioneering centre

either dry up completely — called blocking — or drag out a word.

The centre often uses video to film a family informally together, which can give clues to the cause and treatment of a speech or language problem. Shots of the Corral family showed Peter and his two-year-old sister Mandy, an extrovert character, competing for their parents' attention by constantly interrupting one another.

Maria and Douglas Corral were advised to slow down their own often rapid speech, and simplify their language when speaking to Peter. They put aside five minutes every day for "talking time" with Peter, and he was given special privileges

like a later bedtime so that he could have his parents' full attention without interruptions from Mandy. After six weekly treatment sessions at the Stammering Centre, Peter was talking fluently.

One person in a hundred has a stammer that causes anxiety and destroys self-confidence. Stammerers are ridiculed and dismissed as stupid, and become isolated.

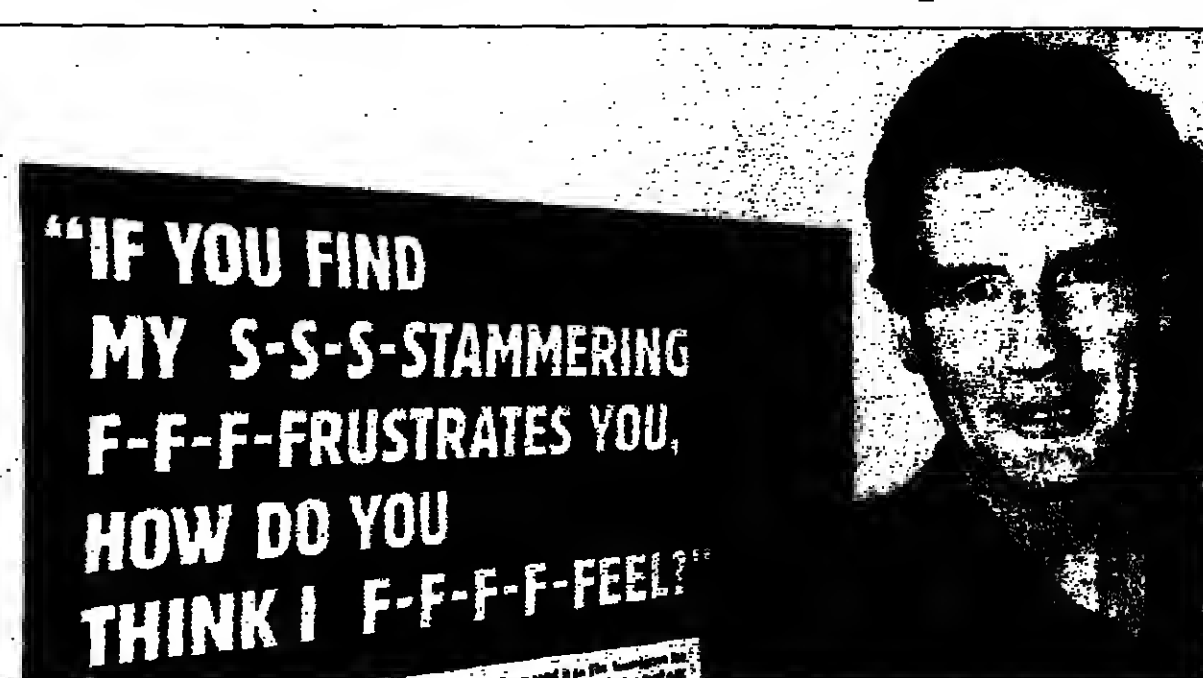
The Michael Palin Centre for Stammering Children, based at the Finsbury Health Centre in London, was established by the Association for Research into Stammering in Childhood and the local NHS trust. Children are referred for assessment from all over the country, but limited resources mean the centre is

able to assess just five a week, says its chief therapist, Robert Spence. Even locally there is sometimes a long waiting list to see a therapist. In the meantime there are practical ways to help.

Be patient, advises Mr Spence, and listen carefully to your child, concentrating on what he says, not how. Slow down your own rate of talking, because children will copy you. Ask fewer questions, and give him time to answer. Never finish a sentence for a stammerer, and do not let him interrupt — or be interrupted.

The Association for Stammerers is launching a parents' helpline in SpeakWatch Week, giving information on specialist speech therapy, useful books, leaflets and tapes.

● *Parents Helpline* (from March 16, 081-981 8818: The Michael Palin Centre for Stammering Children, 081-837 0031).



Actor Michael Palin in 1991 opening the Stammering Centre in Finsbury, north London, that bears his name

I came, I heard, I learnt

Should children with impaired speech or language go to normal schools or specialist units?

Michael looks forward to his PE classes at the local comprehensive school. He goes there each week with other pupils from Dawn House School in Nottinghamshire to prepare them for life in mainstream education. Dawn House is run by I CAN, the charity which provides special education services for children with speech and language impairments.

Many children with speech and language disorders overcome their difficulties by the time they reach school age but some continue to need help. These children are assessed by professionals including a speech therapist and an educational psychologist who issue a "statement" that the child has special educational needs.

At this stage professional opinion divides between the experts who favour integrating a child into a normal class where they receive extra attention, and those who advocate taking a child into a special school or unit.

Ideally both options would be available to suit individual children. In practice the shortage of speech and language therapists and the debate as to whether financial responsibility lies with education or health authorities means that choice is a luxury unavailable for most parents.

Educational provision for children with speech and language disorders is patchy. Most health districts have a speech and language unit attached to a mainstream school but there is no statutory provision. The units, with a maximum of 20 places for children with normal intellectual development, can only meet a fraction of the need.

In local authority schools there is little provision at secondary level even for those with moderate language im-

pairment. At 11 a child who has been "statemented" will probably have to be sent to a special boarding school outside the county.

There are around 16 independent boarding schools for children with specific speech and language disorders. Dawn House has 112 pupils aged between five and sixteen whose fees are met by their local education authority.

A specialist school with concentrated resources can produce dramatic results, claims Andrew Lange, the headmaster. "Each class group of six children has a full-time teacher, assistant and therapist working as a team," he says. "With concentrated expert teaching our children

make encouraging progress, and wherever possible we prepare them to move back into mainstream education."

There are important benefits in having a speech and language unit attached to a mainstream school, says Sue Canvin, senior specialist speech and language therapist at Winchcombe School unit in Newbury.

The unit has 12 children aged between four and seven with a variety of severe speech and language problems which cannot be catered for in the local health clinic or hospital.

"Potentially the children are normal, and it is important for them to develop social relationships and pick up normal speech patterns from their friends," explains Ms Canvin. "I worked in a unit in London which was isolated, but here the children join in the school's ordinary nursery activities like storytime, PE and cooking which they would miss out on in a separate unit."

● Dawn House School, Rainworth, Nottinghamshire is holding an open day on March 18 as part of the Speakwatch campaign.



In an expert's hands: speech therapist Michelle Parker at the I CAN Language Nursery

THIS IS HOW TO HELP A CHILD

The best way to teach your child to talk is by talking to him or her — and having fun. Fun and Games, a BT SpeakWatch leaflet, offers tips:

- Talk to your child when you play together.
- Have fun with nursery rhymes and songs, adding actions wherever possible.
- Encourage your child to listen to different sounds, such as those of planes,

animals, the postman.

- Gain your child's attention when you want to talk together.
- Encourage your child to communicate in any way, not just through words.
- Increase his vocabulary by giving choices, such as "Do you want orange or blackcurrant?"
- Talk about things as they happen... unpacking the shopping, having a bath.

● Listen carefully and give your child time to finish. Take turns to speak.

- Help the child to use more words by adding to what is said: "ball" can be expanded to "throw the ball".
- If your child says something incorrectly, say it back the right way. Do not make your child repeat it.
- Try to reserve time with your child each day to play with toys and picture books.

Computer aid, at a price

In the Mathsblaster computer program a face smiles when the child gets a sum right. Full marks launch a rocket into the stratosphere.

Children with speech problems get discouraged in the classroom and ingenious ways have to be found to make them feel successful, according to

Peter Coker, whose pupils at the Warren Wood language unit in Rochester have been test-running software.

No software is designed specifically for children with speech and language problems but Mr Coker found some mainstream learning packs appropriate for his children.

"Kid Works, a program which enables pupils to create and illustrate their own stories, has a bank of pictures with associated words, so that our children can 'look up' a word without having to ask the teacher," he says.

The unit attached to Warren Wood primary school has 30 children and two computers. Information technology can be a great teaching asset, says Mr Coker, but there is never enough time to train teachers, or the money to install it.

A Kid Works pack costs under £50. Software for people with severe speech and language difficulties has a bigger price tag.

Canon's Communicator, at £1,000, is a device that prints out a message. A simple speech synthesiser, at under £2,000, is a tape recorder with a human voice that can be programmed with a particular vocabulary. More sophisticated packages start at £5,000.

"Even such advanced technology doesn't allow spontaneous speech" warns Nicola Jolley, therapist at the Wolfson Centre. Responses still have to be programmed.

The Wolfson Centre in London is among several centres where people with severe disorders can get advice on technology suited to their needs.

● Kid Works, ABLAC Learning Works (0625 332233); Canon Communicator (081-773 2182).

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Help to break the silence

An NHS speech therapist describes her rewarding career

the Association of Speech and Language Therapy Managers can earn up to £30,000.

Mrs Nicholl divides her working week between a health clinic and hospital at Stonehaven near Aberdeen. She describes a typical working day, starting with a session with Polly at the health centre.

"Polly is a lively four-year-old who talks in good sentences with muddled sounds, which is typical of a child with phonological disorder," says Mrs Nicholl. "Children like Polly have difficulty in connecting words, so I suggested to her mother that they should sing nursery rhymes and play word-games together for a few minutes each day."

"During the morning I had a discussion with an educational psychologist about some children whom we are both seeing. Children function in so many different environments — the home, school, park, with grandparents and other members of the family — and therapy has to take account of how their speech problem affects them in different situations."

The educational psychologist will be assessing the best environment and teaching

strategies for a particular child, so it's important that we pool our knowledge and discuss the best options together.

"Over lunch I had a meeting with GPs from a local fund-holding practice. I've only been in this post for three months so I was there to introduce myself and explain the way I work. GPs are major purchasers of our service and it is vital for them to understand what I am trying to do, and to tell me what information they need for referring their patients to me."

"William, who's two, has been attending the clinic for three months. He was only using single words when his mother first brought him and she was worried about his physical aggressiveness towards his older sister. I explained to his mum that he gets frustrated because he knows what he wants to say but cannot express it in words. Showing him how to put two words together — 'William's cup' when he just says 'cup' — will help him to start piecing a sentence together."

"Janie, aged six, came for an assessment at the clinic. He wasn't talking when he started therapy at two, but he is now doing very well in primary school. He still only uses one consonant where there are two together — 'back' for 'black' and 'poon' for 'spoon' — but I had to tell his mother that he would not get priority for treatment as it isn't affecting his school work or causing social problems."

"At the end of the day I spent an hour doing monthly statistics and writing up the notes I had made during the clinical sessions. They bring home to me the progress these children can make, often in the space of a few weeks, with the help of their family and a speech and language therapist."

● Career details from: College of Speech and Language Therapists (071-613 3855); Association of Speech and Language Therapy Managers, 37a Market Place, Cirencester GL2 2NX.

Free training tapes
(audio and video)
for people who work
on the phone are
available as part of
'Speakwatch 94'

For enquiries to: 071-606 3054



I CAN

A national children's charity specialising in the education of 3 to 16 year olds with speech and language difficulties.

We work in partnership with local authorities to provide nationally recognised primary/secondary schools and a network of nursery schools.

Our training courses are available to therapists, special needs teachers and other professionals.

For further information please contact:

Joanna Tomlin

I CAN

Barbican Citygate
1 - 3 Dufferin Street
London, EC1Y 8NA
Tel: 071 374 4422

Reg. Charity No. 210031

I CAN aims to provide specialist education for children with speech and language difficulties.

Times Two Crossword, page 40

ARTS 31-32



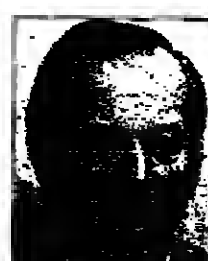
Kiri Te Kanawa sweetly celebrates her 50th birthday

EDUCATION 35



John Patten's fight to shut down schools

BUSINESS 36-40



Unemployment: G7 leaders head for Detroit

BOOKS ON MONDAY Page 33

THE TIMES

MONDAY MARCH 14 1994

Hoddle's guile secures place in FA Cup semi-finals

Peacock does Chelsea proud

Chelsea 1 Wolverhampton Wanderers 0

By ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

GAVIN Peacock, a committed Christian, came to terms with playing on the sabbath and put in the decisive piece of industry to score the goal that carried Chelsea into the semi-finals for the first time since they won the FA Cup in 1970. Peacock also scored the goals which secured a league double over Manchester United and six points that could yet keep Chelsea in the FA Cup Premier League and it is clear that this £1.25 million purchase from Newcastle United has already earned his fee. At the end, euphoria broke out and seemingly the entire Chelsea Shed evacuated their places to maraud on to the field, before Glenn Hoddle, the player-manager, having put himself into the fray from the nineteenth minute, admitted: "From the moment I woke this morning, I could almost smell the expectation. There's a long way to go yet and, if ever we need to be brought back to earth, we will get it on Wednesday when we have to start playing for our survival against Wimbledon."



SEMI-FINAL DRAW
Chelsea v West Ham United or Luton Town
Ties to be played Sunday, April 10.

Peacock's precious quality apart, it had been the soothing application of Hoddle himself that had made the difference between Chelsea and an industrious, hungry, Wolverhampton Wanderers. Hoddle went on when Spencer suddenly screamed in agony, a reaction to the sciatic problem that had troubled him in training. "I turned to my chairman," Graham Turner, the Wolves manager, said, "and said that this was the worst thing that could happen. I suspected that Glenn's presence on the field would have a calming influence on his team, and so it proved."

So, indeed. With the wind blowing capriciously and with players younger by almost a generation scuffling around finding the conditions hard to master, on came Hoddle, 36, who has not been able to play in the first team since November 6, and with measured aplomb, he was to show the mark of true class. The pressure was building towards something tangible and it was delivered in the 30th minute. Wise, by now playing in a free role behind the reorganised attack of Hopkin and Peacock, created the opening. Burley, industrious on the right flank, attempted a shot that was hopelessly mis-hit. The ball was directed by chance straight into the path of Peacock who, without hesitation, stretched beyond Blades to hook the ball in right-footed from eight yards. Chelsea survived because three efforts from Wolves — a header by Whittingham, a left-foot volley by Marsden and a free kick from Cook — were dealt with by the international

The measure of Chelsea's performance, in which they were just the more accomplished side, was that it came without the entire strike force of Stein, Casarino and, from his injury onwards, Spencer. Wolverhampton were at times the more competitive team and they had, in Chris Marsden, a player whose left foot threatened to orchestrate the first victory of the quarter-finals for the underdog. Quite why Marsden, 25, had languished in the lower divisions with Huddersfield Town, is a mystery.

Conway City had taken him on loan and discarded him, and after 90 minutes in which his influence was second only to Hoddle, the one unfortunate moment from him was an ugly stamp with his foot while Hoddle was on the ground. Spencer, moments before his substitution, had proved the value of the little man, controlling the ball at a touch to turn halfway towards goal and volley with the element of surprise that demanded, and got, a fine reflex reaction from Stowell. Wolves were more direct in their attacks, aiming straight down the middle for Kelly and Whittingham, on loan from Aston Villa, yet it was Hoddle, with deft and guile, who almost stole the lead.

Just before half-time, after the erratic Ferguson had lost possession, Peacock centred from the left. Hoddle controlled the ball on his chest, allowed it to drop and from the edge of the penalty area extracted a classic dive from Stowell, who reacted splendidly when the ball was deflected by Blades.

The visitors' defensive trio were apparently in full command. Venus showed a delicate touch in dragging the ball back from the energetic Hopkin. Blades made one fine run out of defence and Shirdiff organised between them. However, it was Hoddle again, in the second half, who came close with a shot from 25 yards that went inches over the crossbar.

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trio of Kharine, Johnson and Kjeldbjerg. Quite how the three communicate would be fun to hear but as it was the sound of relief came from the

Chelsea supporters who made up the vast bulk of the 29,340 audience, an unequal gathering, and in the end a result for the status quo.



Peacock attempts an overhead kick with Stowell, the Wolverhampton goalkeeper, in close attendance

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West Indies players in contract dispute

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN GEORGETOWN, GUYANA

WHILE England's cricket management spent the weekend in deepening confusion over who should play in their team for the second Test, West Indies officials had to indulge in a dangerous game of double bluff to ensure they still had a team at all.

There was no hint of drama when their party was named on Saturday, the only change being Carl Hooper for Roger Harper. Yesterday, however, it transpired that impasse had threatened over the refusal of the majority of the players to sign their contracts for the series. The militants, who included Richie Richardson, the captain, and his deputy, Desmond Haynes, were holding out for improved terms, specifically for the one-day series already completed. The West Indies Board responded with an ultimatum that those who did not sign on Saturday would not be included in the next Test, starting here on Thursday. This threat had the desired

effect and all the contracts were completed, possibly to the regret of an England team which would otherwise have been confronted by a hurriedly assembled collection of reserves. For the West Indies authorities, though, this was neither the beginning nor the end of the problem. The players took a similar stance a year ago, prior to a series with Pakistan, and the truce is no more than temporary.

England's weekend worries were relatively mundane and, to some degree, self-inflicted. Once they had misguidedly selected all their fringe batsmen, plus four fast bowlers, this match against the President's XI had more potential for deflecting them from Test priorities than for setting uncertainty.

That, predictably, was the outcome of Saturday's two sessions, in which two of the four seam bowlers were startlingly inept, while a third broke down, and of yesterday's academic exercise, which produced a century for the batsman least likely to feature in the Test team, Nasser Hussain.

Chris Lewis was the bowler to limp out of the game, which will come as little surprise to those familiar with his career. It was never better than a whimsical notion that he might fill the strike-bowling boots of the absent Devon Malcolm, for this is a job requiring physical and mental resilience. Lewis was only a few deliveries into his new-ball spell when he began hobbling in his follow-

through. He left the field after four overs and returned later to bowl three more, grimacing with pain after almost every ball. He was then sent for an X-ray on his left ankle, which proved inconclusive.

The reaction of the party to each new Lewis ailment is one of growing despair, which was summarised by Keith Fletcher, the team manager: "Maybe it's time for him to bite the bullet and go through a bit of

pain," he said. Lewis, however, played no part yesterday and will today consult an orthopaedic specialist before his prospects of playing on Thursday are assessed.

Only Angus Fraser and Ian Salisbury, both of whom bowled with skill and control here, can yet be linked into the England Test attack and the look of the pitch yesterday, still rough and unevenly grassed four days before the game, resolved nothing about the balance of the side. What can be said, however, is that the option of two spin bowlers looks ever more attractive in the light of seam bowling that is capable of neither effective attack nor defence.

Caddicks' line is so badly awry that, on Saturday, he offered a series of leg-stump half-volleys, while Watkins is thumping the ball in short. Things were no better yesterday, when they shared the new ball and conceded 65 in ten overs as the President's XI began an improbable pursuit of 298 in 40 overs.

Hussain's three-hour century was a low-key affair to all but himself. His previous

highest score on the tour was 16 and, as his Test prospects receded, he had begun to brood. Yesterday, he breakfasted alone, an hour before any other player emerged, and if this consolatory innings as a stand-in opener had any significance, it was in ensuring he has something tangible to remember this tour by rather than making a persuasive case to play on Thursday.

John Woodcock, page 25



Today The Times announces a new cricket game to run throughout the summer. Full details of The Times First Class XI on pages 28 and 29

Richards' recall restores pack to full strength

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND yesterday reassembled the pack that carried them to victory over New Zealand last November. Dean Richards, the Leicester No 8, will catch the tag end of rugby union's five nations' championship after recovering from a dislocated elbow, but it is the important end — the meeting with Wales at Twickenham on Saturday — which will decide the championship. Richards, 30, proved his fitness on Saturday against Newcastle Gosforth, his first appearance since January 15, and wins his 36th cap at the expense of Steve Omoh. who played well in the win over France in Paris. Had it been any other player than Richards, the Bath back-row forward would have survived; instead, he rejoins the replacements, knowing that his time will come again.

Groff Cooke, announcing his last team as England manager, ticked off the list of Richards' virtues: "vast" experience, "massive" psychological presence, a core forward since 1988, a boost to the whole team. "But next Saturday we will need people... well-versed in the art of street-fighting, I suppose," Cooke added.

That can be taken as an inverted compliment to the Welsh who, for all their traumas of recent years, still know their way round a rugby field. England would not be distressed, for example, to know that the nearest thing Wales have to Richards — Phil Davies, the Llanelli lock — required treatment to a hamstring yesterday, though he will play. Twice Richards has been omitted from Cooke's teams — when the 1991 World Cup reached its knockout stage and, a year later, when England played South Africa. "I might have felt hard done by at the time, but we all see things differently and anyway, England won," Richards said.

Richards has yet to see his young Welsh opponent, Scott

Quinnell, in action. Leadership of the England pack remains with Brian Moore, the Harlequins hooker, who will become the fifth Englishman to collect 50 caps.

Cooke's view is that victory on Saturday is the primary objective and that the championship, should England acquire the necessary 16-point margin, would be a bonus. "I have not been satisfied with any of our performances this season," he said, "but I would rather we won than scored three tries a game and lost."

France have scored seven tries this championship and won only once, therefore Oliv-

TEAMS

ENGLAND (v Wales): O Pease (Harlequins), I Hunter (Northampton), W D C Carling (Harlequins, captain), P R de Glanville (Bath), R Underwood (Leicester/RAF), C R Andrew (Worcester), C O Morris (Gloucester), J Leonard (Harlequins), B C Moore (Harlequins), V E Ugochi (Bath), T A K Hodder (Northampton), M O Johnson (Leicester), N C Redman (Bath), B B Clarke (Bath), D Richards (Leicester), Replacements: M Catt (Bath), S Barnes (Bath), K P Bracken (Bristol), G C Rowntree (Leicester), R G R Owen (Bath), S O Ojomoh (Bath).
FRANCE (v Scotland): J L Sedoumy (Colomiers), P Saint-Andre (Montpellier), P Sella (Agen), Y Deshayes (Narbonne), W Tachoumy (Stade), T Lacroix (Dax), A Macabiau (Perpignan), L Benvenuti (Racing), J M Garmy (Bayonne), J Salgue (Montpellier), P Benetton (Agen), O Merte (Grenoble), O Brouzet (Grenoble), A Benazzi (Agen), L Cabannes (Racing), Replacements: P Gallat (Bordeaux), F Landreau (Grenoble), X Elorduy (Racing), F Gentile (Colomiers), P Montaut (Agen), E N Tamek (Toulouse).

ier Roumat is ousted as captain and lock for the game with Scotland at Murrayfield. He is one of five changes from the team beaten 18-14 by England, the captaincy passing to Philippe Saint-Andre.

For Scotland, the Hastings brothers, Gavin and Scott, were forced to leave the pitch during their McEwan's League game on Saturday, but the medical team was confident yesterday that they will be fit to play.

Shambles at Bath, page 24
Results and tables, page 24

The Sporting Scribbler
WALES SHOCK 97-3 WIN OVER ENGLAND SPARKS LEEK DIET THEORY
Report from our Rugby correspondent Dai Llyfyrge at Twickenham.

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Consistency giving Palace an edge

Crystal Palace.....1
West Bromwich.....0

By KEITH PIKE

WITH his self-deprecating brand of humour and deadpan delivery, Alan Smith could probably turn to stand-up comedy if Crystal Palace ever decided to seek a new manager. But with his team eight points clear at the top of the Endleigh Insurance League first division, Smith can look forward to continuing to earn his crust from football clubs rather than nightclubs.

On Saturday, Smith's post-match reflections were by far the most entertaining part of the afternoon for Palace, frequently excited to watch this season, had failed to get into their stride. Yet they still won. Smith's team is, essentially, the one that under Steve Coppell, found points and humour, too hard to come by last season. Thomas and McGoldrick have gone. Matthews and Salsko arrived — one bought, one coming back from a career-threatening injury.

Stewart, on loan from Liverpool, has made an impact, too, and Dyer, signed from Watford for £1.25 million, was on the bench. But it is consistency, not cash, that Smith says has transformed a relegated team into one bound for the Premiership and likely to thrive when it gets there. "I am trying to produce an exciting young team, but this season it has been about performing consistently," Smith said. "Teams like Nottingham Forest, Derby and Wolves have impressed me, but they all

seem to have great wins one day and bad results the next." Palace are unbeaten in nine matches since Stewart's loan period started. Five wins from their last 12 games should be enough to secure promotion, Smith said — although he will not be telling his players that. "I am not the most experienced manager in that I have not been in charge of a large number of clubs, but I know that what managers say to players is too often taken literally," Smith said. "If I tell my lot that they have got to win five of the last 12, they will

undoubtedly win the last five and I don't think I could stand that." Should Palace go up, Smith will try to sign Stewart permanently. "His influence, not just on the pitch, but in the dressing-room and on the training ground, has been tremendous," he said. On Saturday, it was his first goal for the club, after two minutes. Stewart was left with a simple tap-in after Naylor, the West Bromwich Albion goalkeeper, had failed to hold Armstrong's shot, but it was

Rodgers' determination in a tackle with Raven that had set up the chance and Rodgers, who, together with Southgate, did most to preserve Palace's lead as Albion took control later. It was a day when the grafters upstaged the gifted and nobody was more pleased than the Palace manager. CRISTAL PALACE (4-4-3) N Martin — J Humphrey, E Young, D Coleman, O Gordon (sub: B Dyer 70min) — O Matthews, G Southgate, S Rodgers, J Salsko — C Armstrong, P Stewart. WEST BROMWICH ALBION (4-4-3) S Mayes — D Barnes, P Hargrove, P Brown, P Saunders — J Hamilton, K Donohoe, O Bradley, O Smith — A Hunt (sub: C Hoggie, FB, R Taylor. Referee: R B 37m

Brown makes Hearts rue their decision

KEVIN MCCARRA



Scottish commentary

The cheap elements of the Rangers team will be the hardest to replace. At £175,000, for example, the club pilfered rather than purchased Ally McCoist. In the Tennents Scottish Cup quarter-final at Ibrox on Saturday, however, it was another cut-price player who scythed Hearts of Midlothian down.

John Brown, bought from Dundee for just £350,000, hardly needs to keep his hair cropped. Even with luxurious locks, there would still be a bristling air to him. The defender's career has been a perpetual battle, but Brown, in any case, would never yearn for respite. Having scored the crucial opening goal in the 2-0 victory over Hearts, he was in possession of one more piece of vindication.

He went on local radio to jeer at the Hearts chairman, Wallace Mercer. Eight years ago, the Edinburgh club pulled out of a deal to sign Brown after being alarmed by the medical evidence. On Saturday, his 30-yarder was struck with the force of a

Rangers' fire. When he is back in the side, fewer goals are conceded and the sense of purpose is strengthened. The club has bought men of superior technique for the sweeper position, notably the Ukrainian, Oleg Kuznetsov, but none has been able to galvanise the team quite as Brown does.

People, in any case, are a little too quick to accept the caricature he presents. Brown has cast himself as the navy of the side ever since Graeme Souness took him to Ibrox. Perhaps he sensed that there was a vacancy for such a figure, but until that point, he had been regarded as a footballer of some accomplishment.

With Dundee, he was a creative force, operating in midfield. Brown was the free-kick expert, almost paving the ground before battering another left-footer. He likes to joke that he has had to retire from such duties at Ibrox: "I can't get the ball off McCoist." Still the signs of craft remain.

On Saturday, one 30-yard pass tucked inside the Hearts full back for the overlapping David Robertson was gloriously judicious. Even the thundering volley for the first goal acquired its power only from the perfection of the strike.

Brown was not alone at Ibrox in his desire to lash out at Hearts. The visitors gave a lamentable performance, with the containment of Craig Levein and Alan McLaren ensured the scheme would carry some plausibility, but never enough to sustain Hearts for the full 90 minutes.

Their manager, Sandy Clark, was full of protestations afterwards, claiming that Rangers had compelled them to spend so much time in defence. In truth, though, the visitors were stricken with caution from the beginning, looking bewildered whenever they were actually in possession.

Clark will have to take responsibility for that. The approach was not even pragmatic since Rangers have only once failed to score at Ibrox this season.

CUP DRAW

Semi-finals
Kilmarnock v Rangers
Aberdeen v Dundee United
St Johnstone v Aberdeen
Ties to be played on April 9
REPLAY DATES: Tomorrow, Dundee United v Aberdeen; Aberdeen v St Johnstone

man intent on ramming that verdict down Hearts' throats.

Brown's behaviour lacked grace, but he has needed to hoard all of his aggression simply to survive in the game. As a youngster with Hamilton, he required several operations. You wonder whether dismantling and re-assembling Brown's knee became part of the training programme for apprentice surgeons in the area.

This season's operation was on the 32-year-old's back, but an ailing body is just one more adversary and Brown makes no concessions. He will sometimes tap a finger against his chest and insist "It's what you have in here that counts". It is more than just fear that prevents you from giggling at so corny a comment.

Week after week, the Rangers centre back hammers out the truth of that remark on the field of play. You can almost hear the grunt of effort as he arrives just in time to make another vital tackle. The frailties of age and dodgy joints are trivia so long as his desire to win remains in such rude health.

Brown is the keeper of

Plymouth heading to overtake Reading

Plymouth Argyle.....3
Reading.....1

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

SIR JOHN Bejeman once attended an Oxford lecture on "the pleasures of reading" by Lord David Cecil, who thanked him for coming. "But I thought the talk was going to be about the pleasures of Reading," Bejeman, who tended to befriend the unloved, said. He would not have found much comfort at Home Park.

After this defeat, Reading lead second-placed Argyle by only two points and must now keep a close watch on Stockport County, who have three games in hand. They have not yet dissipated their fortune but any more performances like this and Mark McGhee, their manager, will soon be looking like Henry McGee, Benny Hill's old stooge.

Plymouth and Reading have crossed swords before in the old third division. One brilliant day in November 1985, Argyle went three goals up at Elm Park before surrendering four in the last half-hour. The teams were promoted at the end of the season and Argyle might well have gone up again within a year if they had released more money at the right time.

They are less shy these days. Dan McCauley, the chairman, is not Jack Walker, but he has enabled Peter Shilton to spend the better part of £1 million and the manager has something to show for it. Plymouth have spent their entire life toiling and fro-ing between the second and third divisions and, having trounced the leaders, they are ideally placed to force more. Shilton has assembled a pleasing team, but if he derived pleasure from watching them, he was not

saying. Matches are much of a muchness to his old pro's eyes. They come and go, rather like managers, and nobody is sure how long he will remain if Plymouth are promoted.

He should ease up a bit. Their football is full of good intentions and they like to pass the ball whether the choice is easy or not. It is stretching a point to compare them with Brian Clough's Nottingham Forest sides though, as Shilton and John McGovern, his assistant, won championship medals there, it is the style they are trying to replicate.

Kevin Nugent will remember this win most of all. When the centre forward is not scoring goals, he can look a bit awkward, but this was his last day. The upper stomach that put his participation in doubt should have accommodated a glass of something cheering on Saturday night.

His first goal was a curio. Hislop attempted to clear a backpass upfield without thought, as goalkeepers are prone to do, and, after Nugent had been winded by the kick, which struck him in the solar plexus, he recovered his composure to return the serve with emphasis. His second, and Argyle's third, made the game safe 19 minutes from time. Both the angle and height of the ball were unpromising but he dispatched a clean left-footed strike from 12 yards.

Dalton's goal, which restored Argyle's lead after Kerr had chipped a clever equaliser, was more typical. It came after McCull put Naylor in along the left and ensured the scoreline offered a proper reflection of a good match. Plymouth (4-4-2) A. Hickey — M. Patterson, A. Burgess, A. Connolly, O. Naylor — W. Burnett, S. Gartin, S. McCull — M. Taylor, J. Lambert, J. Smith, M. Gooding, J. Jones — S. Lovell, J. Quinn. Referee: K. Cooper (Swindon).



No luck this time for Walker, scorer of England's second goal, as she is tackled by the sliding Vanstraelen.

Spacey inspires emphatic success

England.....6
Belgium.....0

By ALYSON RUDD

THE England women's team look certain to qualify for the European championship. They rediscovered their goalscoring skills to win emphatically against Belgium at the City Ground in Nottingham yesterday and are now clear favourites in their group, having won three and drawn two of their five games.

England were 3-0 up at half-time, despite playing into a strong wind. They took the lead after 14 minutes when the Arsenal midfielder, Marieanne Spacey, broke down the right wing and fired past Noe in the Belgian goal. Six minutes later, Borman sent Walker clear for her sixth goal of the campaign.

A curled free-kick from Spacey on 22 minutes made it 3-0 and underlined England's growing confidence, although, for the rest of the half, Belgium played more positively, with Vautmans putting a good chance into the side netting and Demester hitting the bar.

In the second half, England defended more astutely and passed more intelligently. Soon after the restart, Bampton played a Beardsley-style slide-rule pass through to Spacey only for the latter's cross to be cut out. The fourth goal was created by some lovely individual trickery from Borman, the Doncaster Belles striker, who found Spacey on the left wing. Her cross was duly volleyed in by Davis.

Four minutes later, Bampton scored after Spacey's shot had been parried by Noe and, three minutes from time, the England captain, Coulthart, made it 6-0,

meeting yet another cross from the impressive Spacey. England now lead their qualifying group and victory against Slovenia in their remaining fixture, at Brentford on April 17, will seal their place in the finals.

There, they are where they are likely to encounter teams with more poise and tactical acumen than the Belgians. The visitors did not seem comfortable with their sweeper formation and instead relied, far too much, on a heavy-footed outside trap. England, in contrast, looked assured and can greet sterner opposition with confidence.

ENGLAND (4-4-2) S. Hogg — K. Peckling, L. Walker (sub: S. Hayward, 70min), S. Butler, C. Taylor — G. Coulthart, M. Spacey, O. Bampton, K. Walker — O. Borman, K. Davis (sub: K. Burke, 74).

BELGIUM (4-4-1-1) A. Noe — O. Delbecq, C. Vautmans — C. Vautmans, M. Carrière, A. Janssens, C. Vautmans — D. Demester, P. Vautmans (sub: D. Demester, 74), I. Vautmans (sub: K. Vautmans, 48) — M. Vautmans. Referee: T. Haughe (Nor).

WEEKEND RESULTS AND TABLES

FA Challenge Cup

Shed round
BOLTON (0) 0 OLDMAN (0) 1
MAN UTD (0) 0 CHARLTON (0) 1
Huddersfield 45
Nottingham 71 75

Yesterday
CHELSEA (0) 1 WOLVERHAMPTON (0) 1
Preston 58

FA Cup

1st round
A. Villa (0) 0 Ipswich (0) 1
2nd round
MAN UTD (0) 0 WIMBLEDON (0) 1
3rd round
NEWCASTLE (0) 2 SWINDON (0) 1
Barnsley 12 (pen) 7
Luton 17 57
Walsley 79 79

Yesterday
LIVERPOOL (0) 2 EVERTON (0) 1
Rotherham 44
Sheff. Wed 44

Football League

1st division
LIVERPOOL (0) 2 EVERTON (0) 1
Rotherham 44
Sheff. Wed 44

Endleigh Insurance League

First division

BARNSLEY	(0) 1	TRAMORE	(0) 0
Reading	60	200	
C. PALACE	(1) 1	WEST BROM	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
DERBY	(0) 0	MILLWALL	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
GRIMSBY	(0) 0	BIRMINGHAM	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
LEICESTER	(0) 0	WOLVERHAMPTON	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
NOTTS COUNTY	(0) 0	WATFORD	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
OXFORD UTD	(0) 0	PETERBOROUGH	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
SOUTHERN	(0) 0	POINTEBLANC	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
STOKE	(0) 0	NOTT F	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	

2nd division

BARNSLEY	(0) 0	LEYTON ORIENT	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
BRADFORD	(0) 0	SWANSEA	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
BRIGHTON	(0) 0	BRIGHTON	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
BRISTOL ROVERS	(0) 0	NOTTINGHAM	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
BURNLEY	(0) 0	STOCKPORT	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
CAMBRIDGE UTD	(0) 0	BOURNEMOUTH	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
CARDIFF	(0) 0	BLACKPOOL	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
HARTLEPOOL	(0) 0	PORT VALE	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
HULL	(0) 0	HULL	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
LYNCHFIELD	(0) 0	READING	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
WIMBORNE	(0) 0	EXETER	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
WYCOMBE	(0) 0	WYCOMBE	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	

Third division

BURY	(0) 0	LYNCHFIELD	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
CARLISLE	(0) 0	SCOTTSBORO	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
CHESTER	(0) 0	SCOTTSBORO	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
CHESHAM	(0) 0	WYCOMBE	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
DARLINGTON	(0) 0	CREWE	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
GILLINGHAM	(0) 0	SHRUBBURY	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
HERFORD	(0) 0	ROCHDALE	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
MANCHESTER	(0) 0	DOUGLAS	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
PRESTON	(0) 0	TORQUAY	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
WALSLEY	(0) 0	CHESTER	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
WIMBORNE	(0) 0	WIMBORNE	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	

GM Vauxhall Conference

BIRMINGHAM	(0) 0	RUMFORD	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
DAB & RED	(0) 0	MERTON	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
GATESHEAD	(0) 0	KETERING	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
HALFAX	(0) 0	DOVER	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
HODDERSFIELD	(0) 0	SOUTHPORT	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
MALCOLM	(0) 0	BATH	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
STALWORTH	(0) 0	STAFFORD	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
WITTON	(0) 0	WELLING	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
WYCOMBE	(0) 0	ALTRINGHAM	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
YEOW	(0) 0	NORTHWICH	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	

Tennants Scottish Cup

AFRIST	(0) 0	DUNDEE UTD	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
KILMARNOCK	(0) 0	DUNDEE	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
RANGERS	(0) 0	HEARTS	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
ST JOHNSTONE	(0) 0	ABERDEEN	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
STIRLING	(0) 0	HAMILTON	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	

Scottish League

AFRIST	(0) 0	DUNDEE UTD	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
KILMARNOCK	(0) 0	DUNDEE	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
RANGERS	(0) 0	HEARTS	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
ST JOHNSTONE	(0) 0	ABERDEEN	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
STIRLING	(0) 0	HAMILTON	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	

Scottish League

AFRIST	(0) 0	DUNDEE UTD	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
KILMARNOCK	(0) 0	DUNDEE	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
RANGERS	(0) 0	HEARTS	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
ST JOHNSTONE	(0) 0	ABERDEEN	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
STIRLING	(0) 0	HAMILTON	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	

Scottish League

AFRIST	(0) 0	DUNDEE UTD	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
KILMARNOCK	(0) 0	DUNDEE	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
RANGERS	(0) 0	HEARTS	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
ST JOHNSTONE	(0) 0	ABERDEEN	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
STIRLING	(0) 0	HAMILTON	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	

Scottish League

AFRIST	(0) 0	DUNDEE UTD	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
KILMARNOCK	(0) 0	DUNDEE	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
RANGERS	(0) 0	HEARTS	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
ST JOHNSTONE	(0) 0	ABERDEEN	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
STIRLING	(0) 0	HAMILTON	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	

Scottish League

AFRIST	(0) 0	DUNDEE UTD	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
KILMARNOCK	(0) 0	DUNDEE	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
RANGERS	(0) 0	HEARTS	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
ST JOHNSTONE	(0) 0	ABERDEEN	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	
STIRLING	(0) 0	HAMILTON	(0) 0
15.30		15.30	

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND

1st division
DUBLIN (0) 0 DUBLIN (0) 0
2nd division
DUBLIN (0) 0 DUBLIN (0) 0

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE

1st division
DUBLIN (0) 0 DUBLIN (0) 0
2nd division
DUBLIN (0) 0 DUBLIN (0) 0

POOL CHECK

1st division
DUBLIN (0) 0 DUBLIN (0) 0
2nd division
DUBLIN (0)

Cambridge display precision as Leander outclassed

By Mike Rosewell

ANOTHER boatload of Great Britain internationals was outclassed by the Cambridge University Boat Race crew on the River Thames on Saturday. Leander, with six internationals, including the Olympic and world champions, Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent, were beaten in two half-course rows by four-length margins.

At a striking rate lower than their prestigious opponents, Cambridge's style and precision, even when dealing with rolling waves and blade clashes, were marvellous to watch, leaving Leander wallowing in a half-swamped boat by the end.

Oxford's test against London University began badly when they announced that Adam Pearson, their No 5, had had to be withdrawn just two weeks before the Boat Race. Pearson, unwell for some weeks, was found to be suffering from viral myocarditis, an infection that can be life-threatening if rest is not taken. His place was taken against London by Rob Clegg in a race over half the course.

After an untidy start, London held a narrow lead for three minutes until Oxford's coxswain, Liz Chick, ignored an umpire's warning and a collision occurred, leaving London's British international, Tim Foster, flat on his back.

When the race restarted, London moved into a lead of more than a length, but Oxford displayed their grit to win by a canvas.

The water had flattened by the start of the women's Head race and Thames RC, including Miriam Batten, at stroke, and four other internationals, shattered the course record by 23 seconds to beat their main rivals, a high-pedigree crew from Tideway Scullers.

RESULTS: Women's Eight Head: 1, Thames A, 19min 55sec (Open winners); 2, Tideway Scullers A, 19min 58sec; 3, Tideway Scullers B, 19min 59sec; 4, Staines A, 19min 59sec; 5, Thames Tidewaymen B, 19min 59sec; 6, Thames Tidewaymen A, 19min 59sec; 7, Bedford, 19min 59sec; 8, London Univ (University winners), 19min 59sec; 9, Imperial College A, 19min 59sec; 10, Tideway Scullers B, 19min 59sec. Other winners: Senior 1, Bedford, 19min 59sec; 2, Bedford, 19min 59sec; 3, Bedford, 19min 59sec; 4, Bedford, 19min 59sec; 5, Bedford, 19min 59sec; 6, Bedford, 19min 59sec; 7, Bedford, 19min 59sec; 8, Bedford, 19min 59sec; 9, Bedford, 19min 59sec; 10, Bedford, 19min 59sec.

Britain wins five gold medals in European championships

Grant scales new heights to reach for indoor title

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT IN PARIS

DALTON Grant yesterday became the first British athlete for 44 years to win a men's European high jump title. As a champion who learned all his athletics in Britain, he presented a contrast to the American connections of the other two British winners on the final day of the European indoor championships here.

Grant's victory, and those of Duane Ladejo, in the 400 metres, and David Strang, in the 1,500 metres, raised the British gold medal tally to five after Colin Jackson's double in the 60 metres and 60 metres hurdles.

Britain thus finished second to Russia, who took nine golds. Rod Finch's bronze medal in the 3,000 metres increased Britain's total medals haul to seven, but how much credit Britain can take for Ladejo's rise, or Strang's, is difficult to measure.

Ladejo was not an athlete when he went to the United States in 1987 and became one only because his college basketball coach, thinking not much of his basketball, advised him to experiment with track. Strang was born in Scotland but grew up in South Africa and, having attended university in California, now lives in Arlington, Virginia.

Grant, though, apart from training stints in Australia and the United States, is British to the core. A Londoner, he set nine national records before Steve Smith consigned him to the shadows two years ago. Smith, the world bronze medal-winner indoors and out last year, felt these championships were not worth his attention.

Grant's winning height of 2.37 metres leaves him only one centimetre below Smith's British record of 2.38 metres. As impressive as the height he achieved, was Grant's equanimity under pressure. He

failed twice at 2.31 metres but, mindful of the mathematics of the event, waited until the bar was at 2.33 metres for his third attempt. A 2.31 metres clearance would have done him no good, given his failed jumps, had the medals been decided at that height.

At 2.35 metres, there were three jumpers left. Hendrik Beyer, of Germany, failed but Jean Charles Giquel cleared to set a French record. As if having home support against him was not enough, Grant discovered that his marking tape, which measured his run-up, had disappeared.

As the bar waited for his attention at 2.37 metres, the Briton was having to take pigeon steps to work out his starting point. His first clearance attempt failed but his second one was good; the Frenchman failed and the 27-year-old Haringey clubman took his first international title.

Ladejo led from the break of lanes, reached 200 metres in 21.61sec and won in 46.53sec. With the finish-line beeping, Mikhail Volodin, of Russia, looked menacing and may have won had he been able to pass on the inside. When he found he could not, he had to change course to try to pass on the outside and was beaten by 0.03sec.

"I hope people recognise I am British," Ladejo said. He spent five years in the United States, leaving Britain as an exchange student. "I went to play basketball and American football." But he came home last year a track runner.

And the name Duane? "My mum wanted Duane, the French for customs, but when I was born, the nurses changed her mind. So she took out the O and put in an L. It was meant to be Duane, like Duane Eddy, but no one could get it so I took the initiative



Ladejo, of Britain, powers his way to the 400 metres gold medal in Paris

three or four years ago and put in the apostrophe."

In contrast to Ladejo's win, Strang's was a triumph of patience. He held the inside for most of the race and it was only around the final bend that he wound himself up. Coming off it, he passed Branko Zorko but had to hold his form all the way to the line to hold off the Croatian and Kader Chekhamani, from France.

Strang's winning time, 3min 44.57sec, was modest, but it was the win that mattered. He now hopes he can break the tape at immigration when he returns home. They have refused him his green card and he fears being turned back each time he goes back to the United States.

He has spent \$4,000 on legal fees, trying to convince the authorities there he should be allowed to stay because he

is a world-class athlete, but without success. His attorney will be waiting at the airport to meet him in case of trouble. Strang says he is dependent on the coaching and training set-up he has in the United States. He is to marry an American and has resolved to live there, but his athletic allegiance, he said, will always be with Britain.

Results, page 30

SPORT IN BRIEF

Robinson lines up McKenzie contest

STEVE Robinson, the World Boxing Organisation (WBO) featherweight champion, of Cardiff, recorded the most impressive win of his career when he stopped Paul Hodgkinson, of Liverpool, in the twelfth round at the Cardiff Ice Rink on Saturday (Sikumar Sen writes). However, since the experts still doubt Robinson's true world class, because all four of his WBO bouts have been against British opponents, two of whom were only moderate, the Welshman has decided to establish his credentials by challenging a champion of another world body.

Robinson's manager, Dai Gardiner, said he will be seeking to unify the title after two more bouts, the first of which will be against yet another Englishman, Duke McKenzie, of Croydon, at the Ice Rink, Cardiff, on May 14.

Hats off to women

BOWLS: Wales will be the scene of a quiet bowls revolution next June, when the British women's championships and international series will be held at Rock Park, Llandrindod Wells (David Rhys Jones writes). An announcement from the British Isles Women's Bowling Council has confirmed that hats will not be compulsory for the series. Hats have long been the source of complaint from modern women bowlers, who long for a new look. "We were all afraid of speaking out because the first to put her head above the parapet would have her head blown off, hat and all," a competitor at Darlington said last week.

Holders miss final

HOCKEY: A new name will appear on the Hockey Association Cup when Teddington and Old Loughtonians meet in the final at Birmingham University on May 15. In the semi-finals yesterday Hounslow, the holders, lost on penalty strokes to Teddington after the scores were level at 2-2 extra-time. Old Loughtonians gained a hard-earned 3-2 victory over Reading.

Giants back on top

BAKESBALL: Manchester Giants recovered from their surprising defeat by London Towers in midweek to regain the Budweiser League leadership on Saturday. The Giants beat the bottom club, Oldham Celts, 93-72 but did not have things entirely their own way as the Celts reduced a 12-point deficit to 48-44 before succumbing to their 29th defeat of the season.

Wattana celebrates

SNOOKER: James Wattana, playing in front of a jubilant home crowd, beat Steve Davis 9-7 in the final of the Thailand Open early yesterday. Wattana took a 7-2 lead with breaks of 106, 142 and 123 before Davis won five of the next six frames to trail 7-8. The Englishman opened the sixteenth frame with a 53 break, but Wattana, the world No 5, closed with a 76 clearance to pink to collect the first prize of £32,500.

Fleet Street legend

REG HAYTER, the founder of the sporting news agency in Fleet Street which bore his name, died in hospital in Northwood, Middlesex, yesterday aged 80. Hayter, a noted journalistic talent-spotter, was the Press Association cricket correspondent before starting his own business in 1955 and also advised many leading sports personalities, including Denis Compton, Henry Cooper and Ian Botham.

Hughes leads applause

FROM JOHN WOODCOCK IN STELLENBOSCH

THE Australians are the first authentic touring side to play among the vineyards of South Africa for over thirty years, and it shows. Yesterday, a large and enthusiastic crowd saw Boland bowled out for 155. This gave the Australians a lead of 99, which they had increased to 253 by the close for the loss of two second-innings wickets. The match ends today.

The game's best cricketers are so preoccupied these days that in England we no longer quake quite as we did, grown men and small boys alike, at the very sight of a real Australian cricketer in a real Australian cap. But here, after so long an Australian absence, the people have been suitably

and refreshingly wide-eyed. The announcement that the chairman and chief executive of the Australian Cricket Board had just arrived was ostentatiously applauded by Merv Hughes, who has been so much in their black books, but in a way which must have amused even the visiting firemen themselves.

Stellenbosch has always been a rugby-playing stronghold; but the University, on whose grounds the match is being played, would give Oxford a good run at cricket now and, of yesterday's spectators, perhaps one in five was non-white, mostly Cape-coloured, whose great champion, of course, is Basil D'Oliveira. Given the chance of a knock

on Saturday, in cool, rather miserable conditions, Dean Jones showed that he is in as good form as any of the Australian batsmen.

Yesterday McGrath, tall, willowy and quite lively in pace, had a spell of four wickets for three runs in 24 balls, the first of them being Robbie Dalrymple, who was playing only through the kindness of Mark Taylor, who is leading the Australians. Dalrymple was twelfth man when the match started, but when Wayne Truett withdrew at lunch on Saturday with a damaged hand, he was allowed to make up the numbers.

SCORERS: Australia 254-7 dec and 154-2 (M Taylor 74); Boland 155 (G McGrath 4-59).

Surprising medal for downhill Barker

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN LILLEHAMMER

THE British team came to the Winter Paralympic Games in Norway knowing they had a good chance of winning a handful of medals, but their successes so far, four days into the competition, have come from unexpected sources.

On Saturday there was a surprise bronze medal for downhill skier, Jim Barker. Britain's second bronze of the games, and yesterday, the sledge hockey team lifted themselves back into the bronze medal play-off position by holding Norway to a 0-0 draw.

Meanwhile, Britain's chief medal hopes in the men's downhill both blew their chances and the three-strong blind biathlon contingent propped up the results table. Even the hockey team seemed to have wrecked their chances on Saturday when they were thrashed 7-0 by Sweden.

However, yesterday, despite playing a much stronger and faster side, Britain held off almost constant pressure from Norway to keep a clean sheet. Not surprisingly, Phil Sanders, the goalkeeper, was voted Britain's man of the match after saving 16 shots.

It went some way to making up for Saturday's disappointment in the downhill, when Matt Stockford and Richard Burt failed to win their expected medals.

Stockford crashed on a treacherously steep and icy section of the course and Burt was disqualified when he failed to start in time. He was at the starting gate but was still adjusting the buckles on his boots when a 20-second warning expired. He and his guide, Keith Hockley, appealed against the decision in vain.

Barker, however, surprised even himself by taking a bronze in his first Paralympics and his first competitive downhill. He regards the super-giant slalom as his best event and has no ambition for the downhill beyond improving on his practice times.

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The first major exhibition of the work of Francisco Goya for 30 years

opens on March 17 at the Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, London, W1. Goya: Truth and Fantasy will contain about 100 small-scale paintings drawn from private collections, museums and galleries. The exhibition, which runs until June 12, is mounted in association with The Times, Classic FM and with support from Iberia Airlines.

To celebrate the power of Goya's art, The Times is offering readers a free reproduction print of Goya's 1794-95 painting Self-Portrait in the studio owned by Museo de la Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando, Madrid. The reproduction print measures 500mm x 360mm including border and is printed on heavyweight paper.

HOW TO GET YOUR FREE GOYA

Collect six tokens from The Times (the first was printed in The Times Magazine last Saturday, March 12, and one will be printed everyday this week). When you have collected six tokens, attach them to the coupon which appeared in The Times Magazine on Saturday, March 12. Full details of where to send your application and how to get your free reproduction print framed will also appear in the Weekend section on Saturday, March 19.



Self-Portrait in the Studio (detail), c. 1794-95



Improving Petchey has Agassi struggling

FROM STUART JONES, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT IN KEY BISCAYNE, FLORIDA

MARK Petchey's inferiority complex is dissipating. Among the British tennis players, he had not been alone in habitually entering tournaments either through the qualifying competition or with the benefit of a wild card. In spite of his status as the nation's No 2, his belief had not extended beyond the first round.

Six months ago, he determined to alter his attitude. In his words "it was make or break time". Immediate elimination in the national championship at Telford initially induced further misgivings. Later, an infected cut in his neck temporarily postponed his progress at the beginning of the year.

Undaunted, he maintained his sense of dedication and was rewarded last month in Mexico. There, during a per-



Agassi: crowd puller

formance he describes as the best of his career, the 23-year-old was a break up in the final set against the player ranked No 11 in the world, Thomas Muster, and on the surface the Austrian particularly relishes, clay.

The ranking points Petchey accumulated in reaching the quarter-final lifted him above Jeremy Bates, Britain's No 1, and filled him with conviction. "I feel I belong in these events," he said here during the first round of the Lipton tournament, "and that I can beat these guys."

The statement had already gained credibility. He had knocked out Chuck Adams, an Australian ranked 40 places above him. On Saturday, he further enhanced his reputation by almost eliminating Andre Agassi, the champion

here four years ago. Petchey was within a couple of points of serving for the match before going down 6-2, 4-6, 6-4.

Before leaving to prepare for the Davis Cup tie in Portugal in a fortnight, Petchey expressed disappointment. Instead of basking in the glory of an honourable defeat, he regretted not punching harder a forehand volley that would have taken him to the verge of leading 3-4 in the final set.

Agassi, whose right wrist was surgically repaired in December, has marked his comeback with a tournament victory, in Arizona last month, and is climbing back up the rankings. His popularity, as extensive as John Daly's in golf, has never waned and the organisers were relieved that the main attraction is still competing.

So are the gossip columnists. Agassi, who was accompanied by Barbara Streisand during last year's Wimbledon, now has a partner with an equally high public profile, Brooke Shields. The actress has yet to appear and he deflected questions as to whether she would be joining him this week.

Agassi is not certain to be around much longer, though. Today, in a match likely to fill a stadium which can accommodate 17,000, he plays Boris Becker.

The links between these two are not simply confined to the court. Last July, in a decision which Agassi indicated was less than amicable ("it was more personal than professional," he said), his association with Nick Bollettieri was severed. Five months later, the renowned coach agreed to become Becker's new adviser.

Ten of the 64 seeds fell in the second round here. The most notable among the men was Malivai Washington. Those among the women included Helena Sukova, the US Open finalist.

Clare Wood, Britain's other No 1, was also beaten, although she took Leila Meskhi, the nineteenth seed, to three sets before conceding the opportunity to fill the gap in the draw left by the withdrawal of Mary Joe Fernandez.

Results, page 30

Dalton leads as Smith wins stage

FROM BARRY PICKTHALL IN PUNTA DEL ESTE, URUGUAY

IN ANOTHER series of dramatically close finishes, Lawrie Smith and his European crew on *Intram Justitia* won the fourth stage of the Whitbread Round the World Race from Auckland to Punta del Este yesterday, but lost the overall line honours by just five minutes in Grant Dalton's maxi, *New Zealand Endeavour*.

"We've been racing often within sight for two hours, but two days. We have been exchanging tack for tack all night and it has been incredibly tense. It was only during the last half-hour that we finally realised we would beat them," Dalton said of his rivals sailing *Intram*.

Lawrie Smith was less impressed: "It would have been nice to have beaten the maxi, but we are not racing against them. Our mission is to beat *Tokio* and the other *Whitbread* 60s. *New Zealand Endeavour* was just a nuisance as far as we are concerned. Last night, they were continually tacking in our wind and

once reached right across our bows. We are only interested in covering the 60th rivals. Grant and his crew are just cruising around as far as we are concerned."

Intram's class win moves Smith's crew back up to second place, overall, and cuts *Tokio's* overall lead by three hours, to 14 hours. "This race is still winnable. Our sails are much better now and the boat is faster. We have beaten *Tokio* on two of the last three legs. Now we just have to beat them on the remaining two stages back to England and hope that we get a similar break in the weather that *Tokio* enjoyed during the first stage."

New Zealand Endeavour cut more than 42 hours off the previous record for this 5,914-mile leg set by Peter Blake's *Steinlager II* during the last race, four years ago.

Dalton attributed his record to faster boats and stiffer competition. "This race is much more physical that it used to be. In the old days, if conditions were bad, we would back off a little, but not any more."

Smith's yacht set a new Omega world record with a run of 428.7 miles during one 24-hour period shortly after leaving Auckland. It could, he explained, have been more: "Actually, we covered 437 miles during those 24 hours, but we were sailing round a corner at the time and the computer only measures in a straight line."

Jockeys dream of Cheltenham winners

DURING the next three days, over 100 jockeys will arrive at Cheltenham dreaming of riding a winner at the festival, the highlight of the National Hunt season. Professional jockeys have 17 races to contest and there are three amateur riders' races. It is easy to see that the majority will go home disappointed. Such is the importance of the festival that, for each of the winners, their victory will represent the highlight of their season or even their career. This is our FA Cup final, Wimbledon and Test match rolled into one.

Richard Dunwoody, the champion jockey, will miss the action this year due to his two-week suspension for causing intentional interference to Mr Genealogy. Adrian Maguire's mount, when riding

Ragberry in a race at Nottingham 13 days ago. However, competition will be as fierce as ever. Charlie Swan, the Irish champion, has good rides, as does Maguire, while I am pleased with the horses I am on board. The racecourse is always a competitive place, but at the festival, competition rises to a different level. Nobody expects any assistance from friends and colleagues when so much is at stake.

A Cheltenham race usually starts in a hush at the top of the hill before the third-last fence or hurdle. This point of the track is a curiously peaceful place, where we cannot hear the commentary or crowds. Any of the light-hearted banter that sometimes takes place is notable by its absence, such is the level of concentration.



Jamie Osborne, the leading rider, looks forward to the highlight of the National Hunt racing season.

The size of the pay cheque next month will be decided by the moves made from this point. Gradually, as we descend the hill, the noise of the crowd becomes noticeable. Minor jumping errors at this stage can be costly; good jumping can give a jockey a chance to conserve the vital energy that will get you up the hill better than your opponents.

I have never experienced a feeling to match that of passing the post in front at the festival. Not only is it a feeling of complete satisfaction, but it is also a release of the intense

pressure of the previous ten minutes. I am exhausted by the end of the three days. Not because the physical exertions are any more demanding than in any other week of the season but, simply, as a result of the intensity of the pressure.

I have been lucky enough to ride a winner at Cheltenham in each of the last three years. Two years ago, I rode five winners, including Remittance Man in the Queen Mother Champion Chase. This year, I hope to beat Remittance Man on Travado, his stablemate and a horse

with an electrifying turn of speed. Travado is one of 16 rides I have booked at the meeting.

On Thursday, I will ride Flashing Steel, owned by Charles Haughey, the former Irish Prime Minister. I went to the Curragh on Friday to sit on him and he is an impressive horse who will have a great chance in either the Cathcart or the Gold Cup. My suspicion is that he will run in the latter.

Henrietta Knight has an outstanding chance of saddling her first festival winner with either Ground Nut in the Daily Express Triumph Hurdle or Lackdara in the Grand Annual Handicap Chase. The diminutive Lackdara is a jumping enthusiast and is on a favourable

handicap mark. Simon Christian sends the unbeaten Nakir to the Arkle Trophy tomorrow and I am hopeful he can give me a third successive triumph in this race.

The horses I will be riding have won 37 races between them this season. If one of them can add to this total over the next three days, I will leave Cheltenham a happy man.

In the Smurfit Champion Hurdle tomorrow, I ride Large Action - one of my favourite horses. The fact he is running in this race rather than the easier option of the Supreme Novices' Hurdle has led people to think that this is either a disastrous miscalculation or a sign of supreme confidence. Tomorrow, I will explain why I think the latter is the correct view.

Egerton's stock continues to flourish

Julian Muscat talks to a trainer of many parts planning to make a big impact at Cheltenham

Only through trawling the countryside would you encounter the like of Charles Egerton, an imposing, mildly eccentric Old Etonian with a particular flair for training racehorses. He is a bastion of old English values, a complex character with his own peculiar blend of bluff and charm. Deadly serious in his working hours and often uproarious outside them, Egerton is, in short, a man of many parts.

There is evidence of his professional intent in the five horses he will saddle at the Cheltenham festival. He has accrued 18 victories in this, his third season with a licence, from a team of only 14 active jumpers. But then, as he freely admits, he was born to the world with more than his share of advantages. The son of Thomas Egerton, a Jockey Club member and racecourse steward, he has taken lease of Heads Farm Stables within his father's 1,000-acre estate in the Berkshire village of Chaddleworth. However, that alone does not explain his rising stock within the training fraternity in and around Lambourn.

Egerton, 30, started two years ago with 19 boxes. After adding three more, he recently built a further 21. All the boxes are full. His 28 jumpers have been joined by 13 for the Flat, yet he is restless. He fidgets incessantly, for he feels that he has only just scratched the surface.

He well understands the significance of Cheltenham and has planned his raid accordingly. Lumberjack challenges for the Midway Of Flete Chase; Kabayil tackles the Gold Card Handicap Hurdle, yet he prevaricates on the targets for River Lissie, Scobie Boy and Seekin Cash for weeks on end.

Only yesterday did he commit River Lissie to the Coral Cup, Scobie Boy to the Supreme Novices' Hurdle and Seekin Cash to the Stayers' Hurdle. He is mindful of Danoli, the Irish banker in the Sun Alliance Novices' Hurdle. As he explained: "At

this stage of the season, the novice races are probably more competitive than the handicaps."

Take Danoli: "We'd be taking him on at levels and he has already finished second in the Irish Champion Hurdle." In any case, "if I'd decided any earlier, I'd have simply had more time to change my mind."

Egerton's deadpan face disguises a hyperactive mind. When triggered by the simplest of questions, Egerton responds, pauses briefly to think again and is off once more, prompted solely by the implications of what he has

just said. He obviously thrives on conversation. To portray his intonation is a rare challenge. His voice, encased in a unique, drawing tone, is the kind to have driven his schoolmasters to despair. Were his mind not sharp, you could be fooled into thinking he was in a permanent state of alcoholic ebriation.

Word abounds that he makes for excellent company: he declined to elaborate, save for a long, resonant laugh. However, mention this to Charlie Brooks, a fellow trainer and contemporary at Eton, and it brings about a willing response. "I've known him since he

offered me tickets to the FA Cup final 17 years ago," he said. "He's changed very little: he still has a disarming habit of asking you ten questions simultaneously, all of them relevant to the same topic. He will be a very eccentric individual 20 years from now." Brooks has never forgiven the young Egerton for borrowing his assiduously compiled Latin prep and attempting to pass it off as his own work.

On the eve of the Prestbury festival, such episodes will have long since receded into Egerton's memory. Last year, he had two runners, both unfancied, yet he was still overtaken by the unique at-

mosphere of Cheltenham. "Last year, I didn't expect much, but this year it will be different. I am going with five horses and a good chance of a winner. Of course to saddle one at Cheltenham is everything, both to me and to every other trainer. Basically, if you don't get taken by it you really shouldn't be in the sport."

He is superstitious: "No photographs, please, of the Cheltenham horses." He is a pessimist by nature, he would not be drawn on his plans but, in the recruitment of owners, there is an element to him that is rarely encountered in others. It is by some way his biggest asset.



Egerton walks back to his stables in Chaddleworth after exercising the horses. Photograph: Ian Stewart

Sendai to reward festival backers at 12-1

By ROBERT WRIGHT

WINNERS at 50-1, 33-1 and 20-1 in the middle of March - it must be the Cheltenham festival. Unfortunately, this was merely the curtain-raiser, at Sandown on Saturday, to the real thing at Prestbury Park.

In the hope of unravelling some similarly rewarding winners over the next three days, the following may provide some value.

Tomorrow's card is particularly daunting. The Champion Hurdle looks set to go to Oh So Risky, but 5-2 is too short a price to generate much enthusiasm.

From a betting point of view, the Hamlet Cigars Gold Card Handicap Hurdle is of greater interest. Captain Dolford would be overpriced at 16-1 if the ground turned soft, but with a drying wind and little rain forecast, Sendai makes more appeal. Third in the race last year, she was not given an unduly hard time when beaten half a length by Bollin Magdalene at Nottingham last month and should reverse the form on 3lb better terms. At 12-1 with all of the major bookmakers, she can reward support.

Few horses recapture their best form after leaving Martin Pipe's yard, but Mary Reveley appears to have worked the oracle with Viardot, who won by eight lengths at Sandown on Friday. He escapes a penalty in Wednesday's Coral Cup Handicap Hurdle and the 10-1 on offer with Ladbrokes is very fair.

The Mildmay of Flete, later on the same day, can go to Gnome's Tyeon. He has done little wrong since joining Richard Phillips from Ireland, his only defeat coming when he failed to stay three miles at Doncaster. Back to a more suitable trip, the 10-1 with Ladbrokes should be taken.

Thursday's card opens with the Triumph Hurdle, the race which the favourite last won in 1974. Myself heads the betting for this year's race and could not have been more impressive in winning all of his five starts over hurdles. However, the going may be too quick for her and the 16-1 offered by Ladbrokes for Collier Bay looks tremendous value.

A useful performer on the Flat when trained by John Gosden, Collier Bay opened his account over hurdles when trouncing General Moulter by 20 lengths at Lingfield Park ten days ago.

The Gold Cup appears at first glance to be at the mercy of last year's winner, Jodami. He may win, but his form this season does not justify his price, which is hovering around even money.

Young Hustler, who won the Sun Alliance Chase on last Sunday at last year's festival, has been disappointing on his last three starts, culminating in a heavy fall at Kempton last month. Those efforts all came on soft ground and Young Hustler reportedly none the worse for his tumble, merits each-way support at 40-1 with Ladbrokes.

Joburn finds form

JOJBURN showed little sign of ability in her first point-to-point season as an eight-year-old and very little when sent to Simon Sherwood to run under Rules (Brian Beel writes). She reverted to point-to-pointing at Barbury Castle in January and led the field to two out in a high-class open won by Neary Splendid.

On Saturday, Joburn, still a maiden, surprised in the Oakley open at 16-1, under Julian Pritchard. The defeat of the Caroline Saunders-trained Alpha One in the open was somewhat compensated when she provided the first two home, Sam's Birthday (Tick Saunders) and Teatrader (Richard Russell), in division one of the restricted and two further winners, owned and ridden by Johnny Greenall.

Greenall had a mixed afternoon. After winning the second division of the restricted on *Some Flash* and coming third on *Adare To Win* in the first maiden, his too vigorous riding of *Sandy King* before pulling up resulted in the stewards fining him £45. This was more than recouped, however, when his Lord Of The West beat another Saunders-trained horse, Beau Dandy, in the third split of the maiden.

The reigning champion, Alastair Crow, ended his lean spell with a double at the Sir W W Wynne's but veteran rider John Ulewellyn went one better with three at the Brecon.

A career milestone of 150 for Peter Craggs was reached when Elastic won at the Cumberland Farmers.

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Weld believes his Champion Hurdle hope will win fitness battle Fortune And Fame has setback

By RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

FORTUNE And Fame is receiving round-the-clock treatment for bad bruising to a hind leg, but has a 60-40 chance of lining up for the Sturminster Newton Hurdle at Cheltenham tomorrow.

Dermot Weld, his trainer, returned from Australia to Ireland yesterday, and after inspecting the injury to the long-time favourite, he predicted the horse would win the fight for fitness.

"The horse was cast in his box on Friday night and my security man spotted it almost immediately, telephoned me in Australia within five minutes and ten minutes later my vet was on the scene," Weld said.

The trainer added: "Fortune And Fame has bruising between the hock and fetlock joint on his near hind leg. He was X-rayed on Saturday and they were clear. He went swimming this morning and will do the same tomorrow. "It was due to travel to Cheltenham on Tuesday and I will make a decision that morning as to whether he runs. At the moment he has a 60-40 chance. I hope by tomorrow it will be 80-20."

"I cannot use medication, so we are using physiotherapy and hot and cold applications. He gave his leg a right rap; but then he never does do things by halves. It is painful but I am positive."

Tony Smurfit, son of Fortune And Fame's owner, Michael, who sponsors tomorrow's big race, added: "I was in a state of mental depression yesterday, but I am certainly



Fortune And Fame is receiving treatment for a badly bruised hind leg after he was found cast in his box

more optimistic now. I saw the horse this morning and he is relaxed and totally at ease. He's not lame and I am very hopeful we will run."

The injury prompted a hasty shake-up in the betting for the hurdles' crown. Ladbrokes installed Oh So Risky as the new 9-4 favourite and pushed out Fortune And Fame to 9-2. William Hill gave 9-4 and 5-1 for the pair, while Coral offered 5-2 for the new favourite and offered 11-4 with a run against the Weld horse.

A question mark also hangs over the participation of another Irish-trained runner, Shaviya, who returned sore after her final piece of work at the Curragh on Saturday. David Elsworth, the trainer of Oh So Risky and Muse, was increasingly bullish about his pair's prospects yesterday, even before the full extent of Fortune And Fame's setback became known. "I honestly think Muse is the danger to Oh So Risky. He's really well. I know it is a tall order to have

the first and second in the Champion but it is not beyond the realms of possibility."

After considerable agonising, Tim Forster has decided that Coonawarra should take his chance in the Guinness Arkle Chase tomorrow. Racing's supreme pessimist was the race in 1973 with "Dennis Adventure." The going might be a bit fast and the distance a bit too short but there is only one Arkle," he said.

Charlie Brooks warned yesterday that Black Honour is not certain to run in the Gold Cup on Thursday after receiving the results of the horse's latest blood tests. The ten-year-old had been backed following an impressive win at Windsor recently. Brooks will make a final decision after further tests are carried out on the horse tomorrow.

Dean Gallagher, has been chosen by Kim Bailey to ride Docklands Express in the Gold Cup and Martonick in the Sun Alliance Chase.

Howard has opportunity to extend winning run

Michael Howard achieved a notable double for racing last week, following up his speech at the Tote lunch with a favourable levy determination. This week, as millions search for winners at Cheltenham, the Home Secretary can complete a remarkable yankee which will move the sport into the 21st century and earn the Government enormous praise.

First, he can take a gamble which would allow Sunday racing with on- and off-course betting to begin this autumn. It emerged over the weekend that Neil Hamilton, the industry minister taking the deregulation bill through Parliament, is keen to include an amendment which would end restrictions preventing bookmakers operating on Sundays.

The Home Office is nervous about Hamilton including Sunday racing in his drive against unnecessary bureaucracy. It fears such a move could threaten its own Sunday trading bill, also before Parliament, by alienating sufficient MPs and peers who favour the limited deregulation planned for Sunday shops.

Gambling legislation is the responsibility of the Home Office, a department which has clashed in the past with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) over the pace of deregulation — most notably in broadcasting — with the Home Office always on the side of caution.

Howard leans towards removing unnecessary barriers to people's daily lives and it is that philosophy which underpins the deregulation bill. If the Sunday trading bill can complete its legislative passage in advance of Hamilton's bill, it is to be hoped Howard will consent to his ministerial colleague sweeping away outdated restrictions on betting.

The Sunday race meetings staged without betting over the past 18 months have struck a chord with the racing public and, more importantly, appealed to new spectators, particularly families. The Treasury will benefit from increased revenue via betting duty when existing restrictions are lifted.

Whatever the outcome of deliberations between the DTI and Home Office over Sunday racing, Howard has a straightforward task in landing the final leg of his racing-political four-year.

Quite simply, the Home Office should reserve a slot towards the end of this Parliament for a bill which will see the British Horseracing Board (BHB) take over the government's functions in relation to the Tote.

Howard should ignore the "over my dead body" threats from Lord Wyatt of Wexford. The Tote chairman's main concern at the moment is winning the race for the lottery, hence his hostility to any idea of changing the Tote structure.

Indeed, Howard might feel that next year, when Lord Wyatt's chairmanship of the Tote comes up for renewal, is the ideal time to initiate change. In the meantime, Tristram Ricketts and Lord Hartington must ensure the BHB sets to work immediately to prepare a blueprint which enables a transfer of power to the board. One element should be the expansion of the BHB to include bookmakers.

There are sound reasons for Howard agreeing to primary legislation towards the end of this Parliament. The measure would be popular, have all-party support, and so be ideal for the closing months of this government's term of office. More importantly, if the BHB is allowed to be in charge of finance as well as policy, racing stands an excellent chance of a prosperous future.

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THUNDERER

2.00 Palace Parade	3.30 Plain Sailing
2.30 Star's Delight	4.00 Gokings
3.00 Castle Blue	4.30 Strong Gold
	5.00 Mandy's Lad

Brian Beet: 4.30 Cool Relation.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT

2.00 MARCH JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (4-Y-O; 2m 10f) (9 runners)

101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109
PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES

FORM FOCUS

PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES
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3.00 ROYAL BATH AND WEST NOVICES CHASE (2,240m; 7 runners)

101	102	103	104	105	106	107
PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES

FORM FOCUS

PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES
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3.30 BATHPOOL NOVICES SELLING HURDLE (1,812m; 2m 10f) (9 runners)

101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109
PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES

FORM FOCUS

PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES
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3.00 ROYAL BATH AND WEST NOVICES CHASE (2,240m; 7 runners)

101	102	103	104	105	106	107
PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES

FORM FOCUS

PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES
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Ladbrokes RACING SERVICE

ALL TRACKS	111	122
HEREFORD	101	201
TAUNTON	102	202
PLUMPTON	103	203

RACELINE FULL RESULTS SERVICE

TAUNTON	101	201	301
HEREFORD	102	202	302
PLUMPTON	103	203	303

4.00 HULL WASTE HANDICAP HURDLE (2,918m; 2m 3f 110yds) (14 runners)

101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114
PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES

FORM FOCUS

PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES
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4.30 MITFORD SLADE CHALLENGE TROPHY HURDLE (Andalus; 1,032m; 3m) (15 runners)

101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115
PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES

FORM FOCUS

PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES
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5.00 WIDCOMBE NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (2,171m; 2m 10f) (9 runners)

101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109
PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES

FORM FOCUS

PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES
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FORM FOCUS

PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES	PRINCE OF WALES
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COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Runs	5	JOCKEYS	Wins	Runs	5
A. Morgan	143	120	74	S. Jones	143	120	74

TRAINERS

A. Morgan	143	120	74	S. Jones	143	120	74
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JOCKEYS

A. Morgan	143	120	74	S. Jones	143	120	74
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TRAINERS

A. Morgan	143	120	74	S. Jones	143	120	74
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Sandown Park

1.55 (2m 4f 110yds) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894,

The Times unveils cricket competition for 1994 season

Put your selection talents to the test

THE start of the cricket season is less than a month away and *The Times*, in association with Canon UK Ltd, has joined the Test and County Cricket Board in an exclusive arrangement to produce a game that will keep armchair cricket-lovers happy throughout the season. *Play The Times First Class XI*, and you can use your skills as a cricket selector to win a trip for two to any Test match anywhere in the world next year.

Every run your players score and every wicket they take will count towards your score. On these pages we have provided everything you will need to make your selection: all the averages, and all the fixtures that will count. There are no artificial additives, no handicaps, no ratings, no transfer fees, just a test of cricketing knowledge and selection skill. Pick your team, and follow your players' progress in *The Times*, the paper for cricket.

How to play: Simply pick the team that you think will accumulate the most runs and wickets in the first-class cricket season. We have listed 269 players, all registered with the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB), and placed them in the following categories:

Batsmen (numbered 001-113); **all-rounders** (114-156); **wicketkeepers** (157-176) and **bowlers** (177-269).

There are also three secondary categories: **Captains** (18), one from each county; **overseas players** (19), one from each county and rising stars (20), promising players as selected by *The Times*.

Your team of 11 must be made up as follows: five batsmen; one all-rounder; one wicketkeeper; four bowlers. No other combination of players may only be selected as categorised by *The Times*. (For example, Graeme Hick may only be chosen as an all-rounder, not as a batsman). Each player has a number which must be used when selecting him for the game.



There are three further restrictions to your selection.

1) In your XI, you must pick one — and no more than one — from the list of captains. For example, if you pick Alec Stewart (captain of Surrey), he will count as captain and batsman. You may not pick another captain, even from another playing category.

2) You must also pick one — and no more than one — of the players listed in the overseas player category.

3) You must pick one — and no more than one — of the players in the rising stars category. Your rising star may be a batsman, all-rounder, wicketkeeper or bowler.

In addition to the 11 players picked for the team, you must select one reserve for each of the primary categories (batsmen, all-rounders, wicketkeeper, bowlers). No captains, overseas players or rising stars may be selected as reserves. These reserves will only become active in the event of a first-class player being officially declared inactive for reasons of injury for the rest of the season by *The Times* First Class XI panel.

In that case your reserve will be automatically activated and

his score from that moment will be added to the injured player's total. Only one replacement will be allowed in each of the four primary categories. A player declared inactive cannot re-enter the game. Having selected your team, you may give it a name.

How to score: Scores will be measured by the following means: runs (the aggregate runs scored by all 11 players); wickets (the wickets taken by all 11 players); wicketkeeping dismissals (catches and stumpings made by your wicketkeeper).

Each run will count as one point, each wicket as 20 points (the last two categories will be listed under the heading, wickets). The total of runs and wickets will represent the entrant's total team score. The object of *The Times* First Class XI is to select the 11 players that will accumulate the most points.

In the event of a tie, competitors will be separated by counting the score of their reserves, the highest total winning. If that is insufficient, the score of the rising star will be decisive. If a further tie-break is necessary, the final tied competitors will be asked to pick their player of the season and explain why.

All matches deemed to be first-class by the TCCB (five, four or three days) will count. One-day matches will not count. At the end of each round of matches and each competition period, *The Times* will publish the list of categorised names and their updated aggregate point scores.

How to enter: There are five separate competitions. First, the main competition which runs throughout the 1994 English cricket season and for which entries must be received no later than April 13. Then there are four short competitions covering the matches which take place between April 13-May 23; May 24-June 27; June 28-August 8; August 9-September 19.

Entries for the main competition (which may be made by post or by telephone) will also qualify automatically for all four short competitions. Entry details for the individual short competitions (numbers two, three and four) will be published later.

The winners will be the entrants who have the highest points scores after the last match in each competition period and their names will be published in *The Times* weekly for reasons of injury for the leading 100 entrants.

You may enter any of the competitions as many times as you like but each entry requires a separate telephone

THE TIMES

To enter by phone: call

0891 500181

Calls cost 30p a minute (cheap rate, 40p a minute at other times). Calls last around 6 minutes.

Your Personal Identification Number

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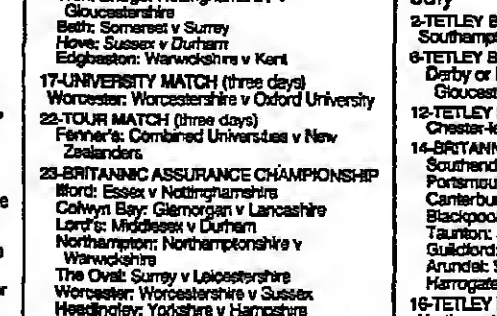
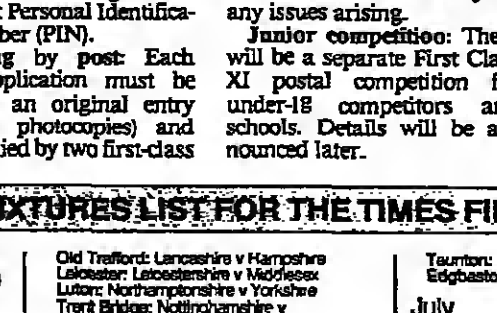
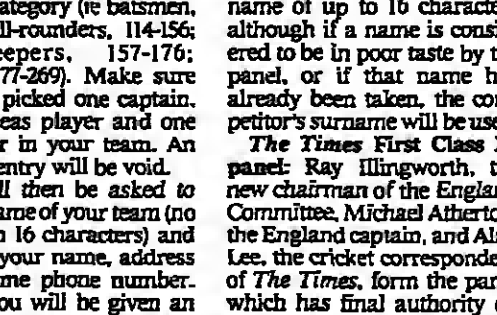
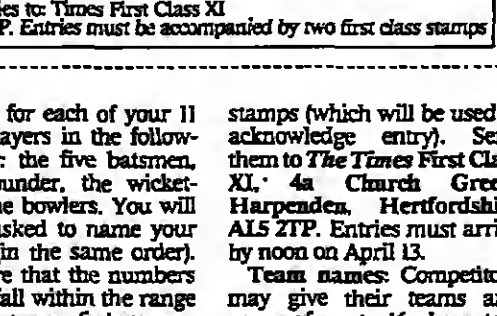
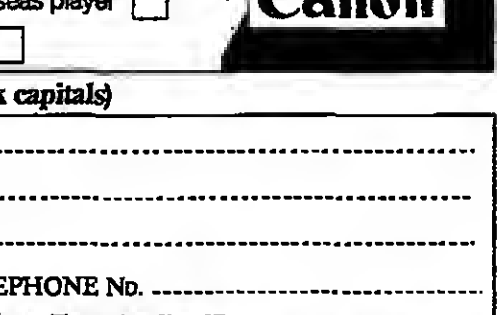
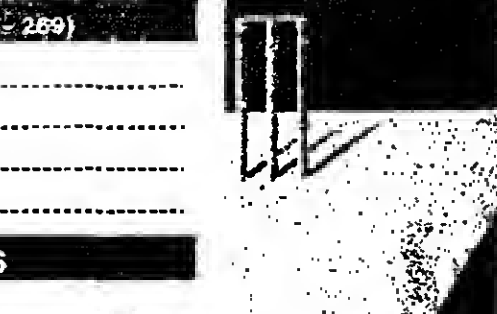
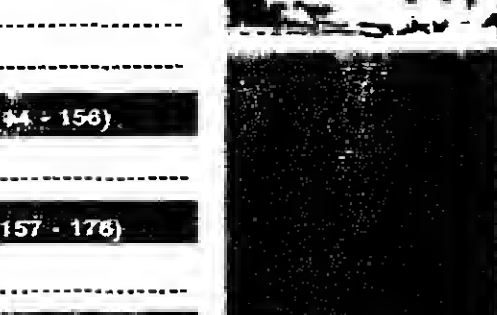
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THE FIRST CLASS XI PLAYERS

Batsmen (001-113)

Pick five players and a reserve from this category

- | | |
|-----|----------------------------------|
| 001 | C J Adams (Derbyshire) |
| 002 | J C Adams (Nottinghamshire) |
| 003 | G P Arnold (Nottinghamshire) |
| 004 | Asif Durrani (Nottinghamshire) |
| 005 | M A Armitage (Lancashire) |
| 006 | C W J Athey (Sussex) |
| 007 | R J Bailey (Nottinghamshire) |
| 008 | K J Barnett (Derbyshire) |
| 009 | M R Benson (Kent) |
| 010 | D J Bonnell (Surrey) |
| 011 | T J Boon (Lancashire) |
| 012 | N E Briers (Lancashire) |
| 013 | B C Broad (Gloucestershire) |
| 014 | A D Brown (Surrey) |
| 015 | A D Brown (Surrey) |
| 016 | J D Carr (Middlesex) |
| 017 | P A Cawley (Gloucestershire) |
| 018 | S R Cawley (Kent) |
| 019 | R F Cox (Nottinghamshire) |
| 020 | J P Crawley (Lancashire) |
| 021 | M A Crawley (Nottinghamshire) |
| 022 | T S Curtis (Nottinghamshire) |
| 023 | M A Daley (Durham) |
| 024 | W A Dession (Nottinghamshire) |
| 025 | C B D'Oliveira (Nottinghamshire) |
| 026 | N A Fairbrother (Lancashire) |
| 027 | N A Fenton (Nottinghamshire) |
| 028 | N A Folland (Somerset) |
| 029 | A Fortham (Nottinghamshire) |
| 030 | G Fowler (Durham) |
| 031 | J E Gahan (Lancashire) |
| 032 | M W GATTING (Middlesex) |
| 033 | P J Gooch (Durham) |
| 034 | P Grayson (Yorkshire) |
| 035 | K Greenfield (Sussex) |
| 036 | J W Hall (Sussex) |
| 037 | T H Hoadley (Gloucestershire) |
| 038 | R J Harden (Somerset) |
| 039 | A N HAYHURST (Somerset) |
| 040 | D L Haynes (Middlesex) |
| 041 | O L Herra (Gloucestershire) |
| 042 | G Hinks (Gloucestershire) |
| 043 | G O Hodgson (Gloucestershire) |
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| 045 | N Hussain (Essex) |
| 046 | S Hutton (Durham) |
| 047 | R C Irem (Essex) |
| 048 | R C James (Gloucestershire) |
| 049 | P Johnson (Nottinghamshire) |
| 050 | M Keen (Hampshire) |
| 051 | S A Kicket (Yorkshire) |
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| 053 | A J Lamb (Nottinghamshire) |
| 054 | M N Latham (Somerset) |
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| 056 | D A Latham (Gloucestershire) |
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| 060 | G D Lloyd (Lancashire) |
| 061 | J J Longley (Durham) |
| 062 | M B Lye (Nottinghamshire) |
| 063 | J J Lye (Nottinghamshire) |
| 064 | M P Maynard (Gloucestershire) |
| 065 | A A Metcalfe (Yorkshire) |
| 066 | C J Middleton (Hampshire) |
| 067 | A J Miles (Lancashire) |
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| 069 | H Morris (Gloucestershire) |
| 070 | E Morris (Durham) |
| 071 | E S M. Morris (Gloucestershire) |
| 072 | M D Moxon (Yorkshire) |
| 073 | M C J NICHOLAS (Hampshire) |
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| 097 | A R Taylor (Kent) |
| 098 | V P Terry (Hampshire) |
| 099 | G P Thorpe (Surrey) |
| 100 | S P Tisdall (Lancashire) |
| 101 | M E Treloar (Somerset) |
| 102 | R G Trew (Nottinghamshire) |
| 103 | M P Vaughan (Yorkshire) |
| 104 | S M Ward (Kent) |
| 105 | R Ward (Kent) |
| 106 | R J Warren (Nottinghamshire) |
| 107 | A P Wells (Sussex) |
| 108 | C M Wells (Derbyshire) |
| 109 | W P G Weston (Nottinghamshire) |
| 110 | J J Whitaker (Lancashire) |
| 111 | M G N Windows (Gloucestershire) |
| 112 | A J Wright (Gloucestershire) |

All-rounders (114-156)

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OPERA: A disappointing Verdi revival at Covent Garden, a dramatic Debussy in Birmingham and, below, unbeatable Berg in concert

Not bad, but not so good

Despite the efforts of a fine cast, Rodney Milnes is unimpressed by the Royal Opera's *Un ballo in maschera*

In the midst of so many successes in Bow Street recently, it is salutary to be reminded just how enervating "international opera" can be. The Royal Opera's revival of *Ballo* on Saturday wasn't exactly bad, but it wasn't very good either: it was just rather boring. There had been hiccups along the way, with a substitute baritone (Paolo Comi) and the loss of the producer (John Cox) owing to illness.

Whether Cox, who has done a good *Ballo* in Australia, could have made anything of the nondescript, 19-year-old Otto Schenk production remains a matter of conjecture: his replacement, the ROH staff producer Patrick Young, aimed no higher than traffic direction, which in this, of all operas, is not quite enough. Only the strange resemblance of the conspirators' identity tags to AIDS-awareness ribbons brought a frisson to proceedings — a comment, maybe, on the librettists' defiantly unhistorical depiction of love life at the Swedish court.

So we are left with the musical side of this most mysterious of Verdi's mature masterpieces. What was he up



Dennis O'Neill and Nina Rautio in the Royal Opera's *Un ballo in maschera*: unfortunately, the earth didn't move

to, setting Somnia's and Scribe's near-far-far-far melodramatic treatment of an historical event — the assassination of Gustav III — that had happened within living memory? And then clothing it in music that, apart from the cornucopia of wonderful tunes, must have sounded alarmingly "modern" in 1859?

The recent discovery that among Verdi's maternal ancestors was one Francesco Uttini, composer at the Swedish court who wrote the music for Gusav's coronation, adds a nice footnote to the mystery of his descendant writing (posthumously) music for the king's death.

The conductor, Daniele Gatti, chose to emphasise the modernity of the score. He opted for extremes of tempo, either very fast and brash — which suited the surrealist Galop to which the king and his court exit to dress up as sailors, and the mock national anthem (not by Uttini) — or dangerously slow, which suited absolutely nothing. What ever else it may be, *Ballo* is not composed by Tchaikovsky, though it sounded from the way Gatti lingered glutinously over the big string tunes as

though he rather wished it were. Even more un-Verdian was the "arty" phrasing Gatti lavished on artless melodies like the king's Barcarolle and the mocking ensemble, or the four-course meal he made of the love duet. Again, Verdi of all composers doesn't need any help: it's all there, leave the music alone and get on with it. A great moment like the final chorus is killed stone dead if you apply a massive retardando to its climax. I trust that Gatti, whose *Puritani* at

the Garden was so impressive, is not joining the ranks of the interventionist or Sinopoli conductors.

Great interest was aroused by the house debut of Nina Rautio, yet another Russian soprano hitting the West. Her voice is fabulous, richly coloured in the middle and lower registers, and with a good strong top. She has the notes and the stamina for Amelia, which all too few command today. But the earth didn't move: what is lacking — as yet, though the circumstances in

which she was appearing were not propitious — is that spark of imaginative insight that turns sound into meaning. On stage, she limited herself to almost comical stock prima donna deportment.

Dennis O'Neill returned to sing Gustav. He was in mellifluous form, treating the audience to generous doses of succulently shaped soft singing, more a Neapolitan balladeer, perhaps, than a Nordic monarch, but very nice. Coni is a shade lighter for Anonkarstrom, more a Donizetti

Return to a dream world

Pelléas et Mélisande: Hippodrome, Birmingham

Never have the words "dream" and "drama" seemed so closely related as in Welsh National Opera's award-winning production of Debussy's *Pelléas et Mélisande*. Peter Stein's staging, new to Cardiff two years ago, is the production of ears, eyes and imaginations unusually receptive to the ever-mysterious dream world inhabited by Debussy's own responses to Maeterlinck's prose-poem. Its return, to Birmingham (last performances tonight and Wednesday) and to the Paris Châtelet (where it was originally co-produced), reawoke both its insights and its strange beauty.

Part of that reawakening comes from the musical direction. Pierre Boulez, who provided the impulse behind the whole project, should have conducted once again, but ill-health compelled him to pull out of all engagements between Christmas and spring. He brought forward the young Californian, David Robertson, a colleague at the Ensemble InterContemporain and a busy opera conductor who has already made his mark at the Edinburgh Festival. Under his baton, the purely harmonic language spoken by Debussy in this opera came to the fore and glowed warmly in all its subtle variety.

There is, if anything, just too much of sunlight for the lunar beauty of this work as temperatures rise, the air thickens and one misses the rhythmic suppleness, the sense of levitation that a Boulez would bring. The suffocation of Arkel's castle rather than the barely incarnate air-movement of *Mélisande* dominates just a little too often.

Instrumental textures remain translucent, though, often wonderfully so, when Golaud remarks that "ce chateau est très vieux et très"

sombre" and *Mélisande*, suddenly radiant, remember when she first saw the sky.

This Golaud and the *Mélisande* are exceptional performances: Donald Maxwell a creature of the raw earth; earthy; and Alison Hagley both physically and vocally a totally innocent as Arkel's perception of her. The chitlike hypersensitivity of her hand movements are matched by the elusive emotional life of her voice.

And the unfocused violence and contradictions of Golaud's inner self are set in to laceraing relief. In designer Karl Ernst Herrmann's world of shifting half-glimpses and bare doorways, their presence seems monochrome, silhouetted. Only when the life giving physicality of Neil Archer's sweet yet robust Pelléas is felt does real light and colour appear.

Each scene has its own curtain — and the company's long technical rehearsals have certainly paid off. Apart from an errant dove which first made for the orchestra pit and then, intelligently, the auditorium's emergency exit, every move is perfection: the twirling of the long, black verticals of doors the long track of a shooting star, which opens into the entrance of the grotto.

With finely detailed performances such as Kenneth Cox's Arkel, Penelope Walker's Genvève and Ryan Roberts's Yniold, this is a production worth crossing water for — were it not that the Paris performances at the end of the month are already sold out.

HILARY FINCH



Alison Hagley and Donald Maxwell: exceptional

Brilliant theatre of the mind

Lulu/BBCSO Festival Hall/Radio 3

couple of years, will need to work hard to surpass the memory of this evening.

Not that everything was left to the imagination. Surtides flashed a translation of Frank Wedekind's savage story above the vast orchestra. On the platform, the cast, singing from memory, offered a surprising degree of detailed acting. And at the centre of proceedings, dressed in the vampish of black-lace outfits, the American soprano Patricia Wise demonstrated why the part of Lulu has virtually become her private property.

Lulu is a woman for whom men would die — and during the course of three acts most of them do. Turning their lust against them, she greets their deaths with the total unconcern that gives the opera its vein of black comedy. Then she meets Jack the Ripper. Uniquely impervious to her allure, he enacts revenge on behalf of all men, by killing her and her lesbian lover.

As the man sings in the

prologue, this is the human zoo at its most bestial; an opera straight out of the sewer.

Set at the height of Viennese decadence, it relates just as aptly to the Nazi Germany that Berg just lived to see and fear. And in its depiction of powerful men who preach one thing and do quite another, it has not lost anything in relevance.

Wise's marvellous performance made the demanding vocal writing seem almost

spontaneous, so completely had she absorbed it. There were gripping portrayals, too, from Wolfgang Schöne as Dr Schön, initially urbane but driven to destruction. Ryszard Karczykowski as the besotted Alwa, Lenus Carlson as a bullyboy Athlete, and Jane Henschel as a strikingly powerful Countess Geschwitz.

But the BBCSO was the evening's chief glory. Berg's score is a web of coded signals, many apparently going against the thrust of the story. Allusions to banal street-music accompany the most

chilling moments of casual violence; and then, when Lulu meets the Ripper, the music swells disconcertingly into a beautiful flood of harmony.

This ambiguity makes the work fascinating, but also fiendishly difficult to play. The remarkable achievement here was to bring the dense orchestral texture into brilliant focus. The myriad cross-references could be heard clearly, yet never once overwhelmed the voices. Davis's conducting of early 20th-century music has matured gloriously in the past few years, but he has done nothing better than this.

RICHARD MORRISON

RECITAL: An adoring audience helps Kiri Te Kanawa celebrate her 50th birthday

A treat of sweet party pieces

If you go to a birthday party, you can hardly complain if you are given sticky, sweet confections. That is what we were offered at Dame Kiri Te Kanawa's 50th birthday celebration at the Royal Albert Hall. But they were good-quality confections, lovingly chosen and lavishly wrapped; it all slipped down a treat.

In music by Korngold and Charpentier, Te Kanawa showed that in the right repertoire she can bring more than just a beautiful voice to bear. Her skilfully crafted, silky phrases were matched by sensitive accompaniments from Stephen Barlow and the London Symphony Orchestra. But then came a crassly abrupt change of tone with the Grand March from *Aida* and the equally triumphal Sanctus from Verdi's *Requiem*. For all the power of the LSO and their chorus, these were routine performances.

André Previn took over the baton for a couple of numbers: "Porgi amor" from *The Marriage of Figaro*, delivered with an intense, inner quality by Te



Kiri Te Kanawa: more than just a beautiful voice

Kanawa, and Strauss's song "Befreit". Next up was the tenor Dennis O'Neill, with whom she joined forces for three favourites from *Bohème* — a passable imitation of young love from both singers.

I have not always admired Te Kanawa's encounters with Broadway: the heart-tugging nuances of many a Cole Porter song, for example, seem to pass her by. So it was here with Kurt Weill's gem, "It

Never Was You", whose note of poignant regret was flattened into a sentimental croon. An aptly harder edge crept into the voice for Joe McCoy's "Why Don't You Do Right?", with fine backing from Previn on piano, Dave Cliff on guitar and Dave Green on bass.

Blood-curdling war-cries then rent the air as the Waihihiere Maori Group cavorted through the auditorium for a group of traditional

songs from the antipodes. The first was a colourful demonstration by the ladies of the art of pot-twirling (the "pot" is a ball of compressed fibres on a flexible string). The men went more for rhythmic slapping of bare chests and thighs, with much stamping and chanting of a bellicose nature. I am not qualified to judge the finer points of Maori action songs — or pot-twirling for that matter — but I do know that it all had an arresting visceral quality quite lacking in the rendering of the Verdi numbers earlier.

Donning only her third outfit for the evening, and against the backdrop of a stunningly glittery lightshow (staging by Anthony van Laast), Te Kanawa rounded it off with *Sunset Boulevard* and, oddly, the coo-opera number from *Citizen Kane*. Except, that is, for the half-hour of encores, tributes and balloons, and, in "Happy Birthday", the participation of an adoring audience.

BARRY MILLINGTON

HOW long does it take for a sitcom to engage an audience? A couple of weeks? A series? Three series? No doubt anxious channel controllers ponder this question regularly, groaning through desk-loads of pie charts, while ratings experts chew their telephone cables waiting for the decisive moment when *Get Back* or *So Haunt Me* either achieves lift-off (at last) or sinks with a tragic gurgling scream under a weight of public apathy.

The trouble is that the debonair viewer, who holds this fate in his fickle fingers, watches the first episode of a standard British sitcom such as last night's *Felicity Kendal Honey for Tea* (BBC1) and merely struggles, thinking "I might watch that again, but on the other hand I might jolly well not". It's a hard world. And it is seemingly full of hopeful sitcoms with very little to commend them. So what is special about this one?

Well, first, it kicks off with possibly the most credit sequence ever made for British television, in which the "back story" of Felicity Kendal's parentage, birth, childhood, marriage and widowhood are given in rapid, unravelling dumbshow. (It's well worth catching next week, if you missed it.) And, second, there is the fascination of

TELEVISION REVIEW

Tea with Hank

Kendal's fake American accent, which is so hugely bogus, so strapping, bouncing and unignorable, that you half expect it to leap forward with its hand extended, saying "Howdy, I'm Hank".

The story is this. Nancy Belasco (Kendal), stony-broke widow of a "corporate hoodlum", turns up at a Cambridge college with lanky pony-tailed son Jake, demanding a job. Her dead husband endowed the college, so she figures it owes her. Lots of comic divided-by-a-common-language misunderstandings ensue about the meanings of "don" and "duke". ("Duke? That's fantastic. I love jazz"; watch out in future weeks for "purse", "trunk", "rubber" and "bathroom".) She meets the mad Master of St Maud's, played with ease and brilliance by Leslie Phillips, and is then escorted around college by the uptight Simon Lathier (Nigel Le Vaillant, from *Casualty*, in thankless role). By the end of the first episode she looks poised to settle. And that's that.

But Hank, what of Hank the Accent? Will Hank settle

7pm we are talking about, after all.

Another brand new venture last night, *Pie in the Sky* (BBC1), got off to a much more reassuring start. Richard Griffiths's man-of-mainstream gastronomic sleuth is a naked gimmick, of course, but the script was neatly constructed ("Everyone has their price, and everyone has their dish," muses the soft-spoken Griffiths, in all innocence, to a corrupt policeman), and the steak and kidney looked so good you could smell it. And meanwhile — as an unplanned echo of *Honey for Tea* — Griffiths humored hugely, apparently unaware of the rather fat man inside him trying to get out. Which is a shame, because it might be Robert Maxwell.

LYNNE TRUSS

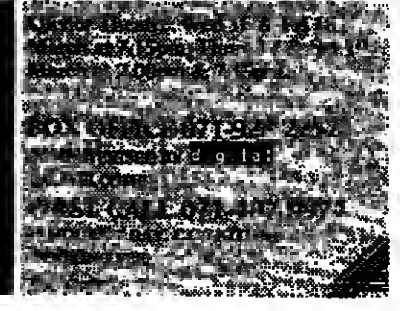
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Out of history's dustbin

Norman Stone praises a study of Russia under Lenin which supplants E.H. Carr's classic

An ancient Russian line is *narod bezmol-nyy* — "the people are silent" — and silent they were for nearly all of their history, which was mainly done to them. One result of this, says Richard Pipes, was that they did not develop a feeling for public life, or even of national solidarity. Ivan Ivanich, in 1917, thought with envy and greed, and patriotic appeals left him cold. Therefore, when the Whites staged a nationalist revolt against the Reds, from 1918 to 1920, they could never obtain much popular support: class-hatred meant more than national defence. This is an intriguing idea, and perhaps explains why, of all the European countries, Russia was the only one to turn Bolshevik.

Churchill well understood that, if the Bolsheviks won, there would be no stable post-war settlement in Europe. However, he was nearly alone in promoting Allied intervention, and it fizzled out, as the Whites' own cause declined. Richard Pipes is very good on this subject — fair-minded (there are some excellent pages on the anti-Semitism of the Whites) but realistic, and he is right to begin this second volume in his history of the Russian Revolution, with this subject.

The Reds failed everywhere else in Europe; why not in Russia, too? Especially as the Whites promised to restore Great Russia. This appeal did not mean much to the Russian masses, and the Whites' conscripts deserted in droves, while the peasantry remained quite indifferent towards them. In multi-national Russia, there were other national problems. The Whites disliked the Poles and despised the Balts and Ukrainians. It was, says Pipes, the refusal of the Poles to come to the aid of the southern Whites in summer, 1919, that really condemned them to defeat. There is a lesson in this for any Russian: whatever the messiness of the nationality problem, you have got to begin by recognition of these peoples' independence. Otherwise, Russia turns once more into a slavery-state. This lesson is now more relevant than ever.

It is easy enough to write the history of the Russian Revolution in terms of the failure of the anti-Communists. The old order had been smashed by wartime defeat, the middle-classes, though powerful enough in the great cities, were generally too weak; the Church was not a politically mobilising one. So the "westernisers" were not likely to go anywhere.

More interesting is the failure of the native Russian revolutionary tradition. The Socialist Revolutionary Party

took half of the votes for the assembly in January 1918, but could not resist the Bolsheviks: they just talked and quarrelled with each other. As Pipes says, they were always distinguished more by courage than by wisdom. So the Bolsheviks, with their Germanic doctrine, stepped into a near-void.

All of these things Pipes discusses with great learning and elegance. To write about the Civil War at length is very difficult, because it went on everywhere and anywhere, with innumerable actors, and I have never seen it better done. But Pipes goes beyond this, and discusses in turn all the important themes of the revolutionary years, up to the death of Lenin in January 1924. There is a grimly funny chapter on revolutionary culture: Rodchenko's multi-purpose worker's suit (it looks like Forucci without the loonies), the revolutionary street theatre, *Proletkult* ballet, and there are excellent accounts of church responses to the growth of atheistic terror.

RUSSIA UNDER THE BOLSHIEV REGIME, 1919-1924

By Richard Pipes
Harvill, £25

In that period, the West gave a great deal of money to Moscow — part of it German, to pay for a Russo-German military alliance that anticipated the Hitler-Stalin pact; part of it American, by semi-corrupt deals through men like the young Armand Hammer; and part of it for charitable purposes, to save Russia from famine. In that sense, the West saved the Bolsheviks, an episode for which "contradictions of capitalism" is a good description.

Pipes is again right to devote a chapter to the great famine of 1921, when, as a consequence of Bolsheviks seizing the seed-grain in a year of drought, five million people died. E.H. Carr, in his three-volume account of the revolution, characteristically gave this disaster a paragraph.

Not to dwell upon the non-Bolshevik side was one of the great weaknesses of Carr's once-classic account of the Russian Revolution. He did after all say that no historian of the revolution would waste his time writing about batmen who made ducks, and that attitude made his own account not only tortuous but inadequate. He wrote instead, almost incomprehensibly, about manoeuvres among the Bolsheviks. It is a wonderful irony that their successors made the classic historical duck, and so does Carr himself, because Pipes replaces him in these matters quite easily. As a further irony, this paladin of Cold War scholarship, so often denounced by Carr, has even been given the run of Lenin's papers, and much else.

We can therefore tell the inside story of the crushing of the Kronstadt sailors' revolt in



Nicholas II at Tsarskoye Selo, March 1918; in July, he and his family were killed. From *The Romanovs* (Leppi, £50)

March 1921, or the peasant rebellions on the Volga, or the Bolsheviks' decision to restore something of a market while clamping down hard upon opposition, even within their own party. Pipes is of course out of sympathy with them, and he is memorably rude about Lenin's mumification at a time when saints' relics were being derided and destroyed. However, he has held his nose, and concentrated on the Bolsheviks' doings. In Carr's pages, it all came across as sterile pastiches. With Pipes, you can follow very easily what is going on.

He has several digressions: the most interesting on the relationship of Communism and Fascism. In the end they were the same thing: it was tough and go whether Musso-

lini stayed on the extreme left, and Lenin's attitude to most things was Fascist. It is another irony that his brain should have been preserved, in little slices, with a view to race-improving genetic experiments (that side of Bolshevism which Bulgakov satirised in *Heart of a Dog*). Throughout the inter-war period, German and Russian scientists collaborated merrily on eugenic matters, and Vladimir Ilyich, a creature mainly of formaldehyde, slumbers in Red Square to this day. As Pipes says, in everything he anticipated Stalin, and at the end of his life, he understood what he had done. If he survives at all in Red Square, it might just be because Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the Russian Fascist, is next door, in the Kremlin.

Echoes of a master's voice

LIKE the Albert Memorial, Arthur C. Clarke is a much-loved institution from another age. And, like the memorial, SF's revered superstar occasionally needs scaffolding — the collaboration of Rama-series co-author Gentry Lee. *Rama Revealed* (Gollancz, £15.99) is their latest endeavour, but, although Clarke is still remembered as a prime mover of massive ideas and universe-spanning vision, this is not so much revelation as repetition.

Bits of past Rama jigsaws have to be rammed in place as we follow the adventures of the elderly Nicole, matriarch of an interminably extended family, in the planet-sized spaceship which has become an unwieldy metaphor for Earth undergoing similar socio-political changes. The book eventually centres upon her battle with an affirming death during which we learn of life's source, while she is on the run from the tyrant who has taken over Rama.

The Swiss Family Robinson cuteness of Nicole's clan countering octopodisers and other bits of organic engineering becomes wearisome tedious, with plodding dialogue and a drifting episodic narrative which rarely winds up tension. It is only in the Wagnerian intensity of the finale that the hand of Clarke can be distinctly felt.

The man who could work SF miracles has always lurged for divine clarification at the end. And that culmination tells us of what Arthur C. Clarke is still capable: the sense of mystery and awe, not the laborious assembly of hardware.

Clarke, like the Albert Memorial, may remind us by his style of an antique missile-launcher, but he's still able to ignite the most extraordinary blast-offs — once he dislodges and breaks free from the scaffolding.

LUCIUS Shepherd stands alone with *The Ends of the Earth* (Millennium, £15.99), a collection of stories which traverse the darkside where science fiction becomes horror. As the hottest ticket in this genre, currently writing in

America, it is hard to rate just what his attraction is, apart from a momentum which hurries you along regardless. Sexual disfigurement or a morbidly I haven't encountered since Edgar Allan Poe? Either way he grounds SF to an all-too-transitory flesh like no other.

JOHN Brosnan, by contrast, has a slam-bang style which is joyously identifiable in *The Opoponax Invasion* (Gollancz, £8.99 pbk original). And in Joster Rack, an electronic thief, he has a hero admirably in synch with his technique which seems to have its tongue in its cheek half the time. Joster Rack is not only on the run from aliens, but the taxman, in a wired-up world in which everyone is imprinted with their own personal circuitry. To be read at a gulp.

ON THE other hand Stephen Baxter's *Flux* (HarperCollins, £15.99) has ideas which should be chewed and chomped over, so mentally sustaining are they in this chronicle of the feuds and passions of a race of submicroscopic humans created to work within the shadow of The Star. It is the search for their origins by Earth-born humans which mounts a concept to put Stephen Baxter in the top league of world-splitters.

WHENEVER Phil Jones wants to draw our attention to something he shouts at us in capital letters, "LOOK THIS ISN'T A BOOK YOU RAVING NUTTER." *Fission Impossible* (Millennium, £14.99/£8.99 pbk) is no laughing matter but it is wonderfully unexpected. Vividly hallucinatory, its story of the workhouse girl Jane, who steals the vast metallic flying dragon made in the factory attached to the institution where she is brought up, is a strange mix of SF fable and fanciful escapism. A Grimm fairy tale indeed that has the delights of fascination and wonder to recommend it.

TOM HUTCHINSON

She had to create herself

Lucasta Miller

CHARLOTTE BRONTË
A Passionate Life
By Lyndall Gordon
Chatto & Windus, £15.99

Charlotte Brontë died in 1855. By the 1860s, tourists had begun making their way to Haworth and writing home on souvenir stationery. The Brontë industry, often mistakenly seen as a modern phenomenon, had arrived.

The book which brought the pilgrims to the shrine was not *Jane Eyre* or *Wuthering Heights*, but Elizabeth Gaskell's *Life of Charlotte Brontë*. Since Mrs Gaskell, the Brontës' lives have attracted as much curiosity and admiration as their works. Their hold over our collective fantasy has been enduring: like a fairy tale passed from one generation to the next, the story has always found new tellers.

Lyndall Gordon's *Charlotte Brontë* is the latest variation on the old theme, yet it successfully manages to distinguish itself from its predecessors. She approaches her subject with the imagination of a true critic rather than the fact-fetishism of the archivist. Her aim is to give meaning to the evidence by shaping it into a cohesive psychological portrait.

The originality of her interpretation lies in its emphasis on Charlotte Brontë's strength of personality. She has tended to be cast in the role of victim. Mrs Gaskell and her 19th-century imitators were anxious to absolve her from the accusations of impropriety which had greeted *Jane Eyre*: a Charlotte who dutifully submitted to misery would gain forgiveness. She became a secular saint, "made perfect," in Charles Kingsley's approving phrase, "by suffering".

After the First World War, Charlotte was reinterpreted — but she remained a victim. Freudian psychobiographers saw her "heroic" self-denial as masochistic weakness and diagnosed unhealthy symptoms of repression. Even her death was read as neurotically self-willed, a hypothesis which Gordon rightly rejects. Attitudes towards Charlotte changed with feminism, but she was still deemed, this time by patriarchal oppression.

Though Gordon is sensitive to the social restrictions imposed on the Victorian woman, the image of Charlotte she projects is that of a survivor whose extraordinary inner resources enabled her to transcend these crushing limitations. The tragic landmarks in her life — most strikingly, the early deaths in her family and her own death nine months after she married — are balanced with the recognition that

hers was a success story: "It is easy to see this life as a series of losses... yet loss does not explain the central fact of Charlotte Brontë's existence: her capacity to use her experience as the material of art."

One of the most disputed areas of Brontë biography is Charlotte's feelings for her Belgian teacher, Constantin Heger. This has focused, since her discovery in 1913, on her surviving letters to him. The meaning of the letters will always be a matter of interpretation. They have been read as the love-sick effusions of a romantic; as the expression of an oedipal father- fixation; as the affectionate testimony of a grateful pupil. In keeping with her perception of Charlotte's character as a whole, Gordon stresses the creative consequences of her ultimate rejection by Heger: he had been a spur to her literary ambition, and Brussels had provided the inspiration for *Villette*.

Gordon's reading of that work is emblematic of the way she views her subject. *Villette*, she concedes, does to some extent explore the "disabling conditions" affecting women in society which, she says, explains its appeal for 20th-century feminists. But it also asserts that "a woman must create herself", and it is here that it "speaks to generations yet to come".

In many ways, Gordon seems to offer a post-feminist perspective, by concentrating less on women's oppression than on their capacity for creative fulfilment. By focusing on Charlotte's energy and tenacity, and by showing us her much-ignored sense of humour, Gordon has broken with the gloomy legacy of Mrs Gaskell. Suffering alone cannot account for Charlotte's literary achievements. Highlighting those aspects of her personality which grated on the Victorian sensibility but which appeal to ours, Gordon has created a portrait through which Charlotte Brontë can speak directly to the 1990s.

Lucasta Miller is writing a book, *The Brontë Myth*.

Riding the roller-coaster

Walter Ellis

TONY CURTIS
The Autobiography
By Tony Curtis
and Barry Paris
Heinemann, £16.99

Tony Curtis is the king of Hollywood's nearly men — an essentially B-movie actor who through sheer exuberance and "Latin" good looks made it onto the A team and remained there for more than 30 years. He is lively, entertaining and generous, and like so many stars of his vintage, a gifted raconteur.

But he is also lucky. Over the years since making his first screen appearance, in 1949, Curtis has acted in more than a hundred films and played several memorable roles, most notably Sidney Falco in *The Sweet Smell of Success* and Joe Josephine in the cross-dressing comedy, *Some Like It Hot*. Yet most of his output is lightweight, forgettable and forgotten, while his life and career, abundantly endowed with women and wealth, very nearly ended up in the gutter through cocaine and booze.

In his autobiography he does not so much reflect on his past as narrate it, blow for blow. The style is racy and immediate as he works his audience for sympathy and laughs with a conceit that is so up-front it is disarming.

And what a life! From his early days in the New York slums when, as a Jew called Bernie Schwarz, he would



Curtis, right: the quality of his work varied but he was at his best in *Some Like It Hot* (1959)

sling old condoms filled with urine at Nazi supporters in the German quarter, to his days in the US Navy, not quite fighting in the Pacific War but winding up a witness to the Japanese surrender, he played the role of Tony Curtis, movie star in waiting.

His childhood was textbook immigrant. Manuel Schwarz, his father, was an apprentice tailor who made it to New York in 1921, where he met Helen, a Hungarian Jewess and married her. Manuel was handsome and hard-working, with ambitions to be a performer. But it was not to be. The arrival of the Depression meant it was as much as he could do to keep his family housed and fed.

When he joined the Navy in 1943, Bernie was still a virgin, bursting, almost literally, for

relief. "A lot of my early sexual experiences happened inside my trousers," he recalls. But as soon as he moved to Hollywood, changed his name and landed his early bit roles, the women started flocking to him. Few were turned away. He was given fencing lessons, dancing lessons, riding lessons and elocution lessons by Universal, and he in his turn gave kissing lessons to the girls.

By now, Curtis's life was on a roller-coaster. He began to star with actors of real talent, like Marlon Brando, Burt Lancaster and Sidney Poitier, and some of the work he did amid the dross was of a high standard, particularly in *The Defiant Ones* (1958) in which he played an escaped convict opposite Poitier and insisted, pre-civil rights, that the

black actor share top billing. Along the way, there were wives and mistresses and children (including Jamie Lee Curtis) and the kind of hell-raising more usually associated with the Sinatra rhapsack. The man loves himself and he loves life, and he doesn't mind people knowing that he has laid more women, drunk more whisky and won more applause than any other kid on the block.

He knows that, with his background, he could have had things a great deal worse and, just possibly, he thinks that the fun he has had, like the Oscar he never won, was really for all the other people who should have been up there with him but couldn't make it in this particular life. For that alone, Curtis is an original.

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EDUCATION

POSTS



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Salary in excess of £16,000 on the Lecturer Grade A/B scale. Further particulars of the post are obtainable from the Deputy Registrar, St David's University College, Lampeter, Dyfed SA48 7ED, to whom letters of application, including a curriculum vitae, list of publications, and research programme, should be sent by Friday 1 April 1994; applicants are required to arrange that letters from three referees reach him by the same date. Interviews will be held towards the end of April 1994.

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The appointee may not necessarily have spent a working life in a university but should have a clear understanding of universities and their function. The person appointed will have a respected record of academic and administrative achievements, leadership and skills which will ensure that the University of Auckland meets its prime goals. These goals include providing research-based teaching of high quality, carrying out high level research, giving its staff and students the opportunity for creative work, acting as a focus for scholarship and debate within the community and contributing towards New Zealand's social, cultural and economic well-being.

Applications close with the Chancellor at the University of Auckland on 1 May 1994.

Further information and method of application are available from the following:

Mr Warwick Nicoll
Registrar
University of Auckland
Private Bag 92019
Auckland 1
NEW ZEALAND
Tel: (64 9) 373 7517
Fax: (64 9) 373 7407

Appointments (42611)
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Hon Justice Sir Ian Barker
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Further details may be obtained from the Chairman of Governors, Caterham School, Harstone Valley, Caterham, Surrey CR3 8YA. Tel: 0883 348682 Fax: 0883 347795

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Further particulars of the appointment may be obtained from the Deputy Registrar (Administrative), University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD (Tel: 01865 270003), to whom applications, including a detailed curriculum vitae and the names and addresses of two referees, should be sent by 11 April 1994.

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Further particulars may be obtained from the Registrar, University of Newcastle upon Tyne, 6 Kensington Terrace, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7RU with whom applications, giving names and addresses of three referees, should be lodged not later than 15th April 1994. Please quote ref. 1280/T.

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Further particulars may be obtained from: Mr A F D Scott, Director of the Undergraduate Programme, Management Centre, University College London, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT. (Tel: 071 380 7142/Fax: 071 380 7145)

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EDUCATION

Ben Preston reports on the difficulties facing a Government set on eliminating surplus places in Britain's schools

No place for faint hearts in this squeeze

Successive education secretaries have made the ritual quest to remove surplus school places look more like the hunt for the cock of gold—brave words and bold ambitions floundering as hopes evaporate. Eventually, they have bowed to defeat, victims of the iron law of education politics: nothing rouses parents like a proposal to close their child's school; nothing saps the energy of policy makers more than the arcane, thankless bureaucracy required.

The barrier facing politicians seeking to close schools was famously described by E.G. Rickard, Lincolnshire's county education officer, in 1984. There were only two events that would fill the Empire Ballroom in Skegness, he said—a Miss World contest and a meeting to discuss secondary school closures.

A decade later, local impresarios could be forgiven for rubbing their hands in anticipation of a revival in hall bookings. Few education secretaries have embarked on the trail for surplus places with the gusto of John Patten. Clutching an Audit Commission report saying there are 1.3 million spare places in England's 4,000 secondary and 18,000 primary schools, he announced last March the elimination of between 750,000 and 900,000 surplus places within three to four years. The prize of annual savings of up to £520 million was glittering enough for Mr Patten to boast that he was prepared to withstand unpopularity. After all, he explained, the huge savings would transform education by helping struggling schools to revive and expanding popular ones.

The targets appear too big to miss, according to government figures. In some authorities, more than a quarter of school places are empty. In Hammersmith, west London, 41 per cent of desks in secondary schools and 29 per cent in primary schools are surplus to requirements. Wandsworth, in south London, has more than a third of all places vacant.

Mr Patten took the sensible precaution of arming himself with new powers before embarking on his mission. The Education Act 1993 will from next month require local education authorities to provide an annual update on spare places and allow Mr Patten to require authorities to bring forward proposals to shed the surplus. The new Funding Agency for Schools, sharing power with coun-

cillors in about 45 areas where many schools have opted out, provides another weapon.

Yet, already, political realities are threatening Mr Patten's jaunty optimism. A newspaper report eight days ago, that the closure of 1,000 schools was planned amid Treasury pressure for economies, caused confusion. Mr Patten rejected it as "bunkum and balderdash", anxious to avoid any backlash in the run-up to local elections in May. Officials junked earlier promises overboard. Fewer than a hundred schools faced closure, said a spokesman: "It's nothing like 1,000. That would be a huge number. It will be in the tens."

After four days of silence, Mr Patten emerged with new, reduced targets. He now says local authorities are wasting about £200 million a year on between 600,000 and 700,000 places that could be removed without limiting parental choice. The emphasis is firmly on speeding spare places out of the system through amalgamations and disposal of school buildings, as well as through closures.

For Mr Patten, the real problems lie ahead. The Conservative vision of an education marketplace, where schools wax and wane according to their popularity, relies on substantial excess capacity in the system to guarantee parents real choice. Similarly, the party's support for opting out, small rural schools, single-sex schools and schools with traditional sixth-forms threatens to conflict with a drive to reduce excess capacity. Is Mr Patten really prepared to close village primaries or force through the amalgamation of girls' secondaries with neighbouring comprehensives?

Stephen Byers, Labour MP for Wallasey and former chairman of the Council of Local Education Authorities, blames the present scale of surplus places on ministers allowing schools to switch to grant-maintained status as a means of escaping local reorganisation plans. One measure of Mr Patten's determination to rationalise places will be whether he sticks by a recent pledge to stop schools facing closure using grant-maintained status as a lifeline—even though this flagship policy appears to be running out of steam.

The scale of the task Mr Patten has set himself is underlined by the limited impact of his initiative so far. The Education Department has agreed to fund the removal of just 43,000 places next year,



Six-year-old Jenny Allen at the opted-out Totley All Saints Church of England Primary School, Sheffield. Thirteen months of uncertainty ended in the school's survival

LABOUR-CONTROLLED Sheffield appeared to be doing just what the Government wanted when it announced plans to close 16 schools, removing 6,000 surplus places, early last year. The city has been one of Mr Patten's favourite targets in his campaign against waste and inefficiency.

Sheffield disputes the department's estimate that it has almost 18,000 surplus places. Officials put the true figure at less than half that. But the city's financial position forced councillors to confront the problem again.

The original plans, put forward

after 18 months of consultation, listed four secondary schools and 12 primaries for closure. By the time the reorganisation proposals had been finalised last summer, appeals from local community groups had brought the total down to a dozen.

No sooner had the scheme been submitted to Mr Patten than nine of the targeted schools voted to opt out. The whole process was delayed while the schools' applications were considered.

When Mr Patten's decisions were announced last month, six of the applications were rejected,

but three primary schools were allowed to opt out and survive. Assuming that the rest of the reorganisation is approved, the eventual number of places removed will be about 4,500.

Mr Patten's verdict brought an end to an agonising 13 months for Totley All Saints Church of England Primary School. Perhaps seeing the closure proposal coming, the governors had already begun the process of opting out before the reorganisation scheme was published. The ballot in which 96 per cent of parents favoured grant-maintained status

was the most one-sided, since opting out began.

Joan Stratford, the head teacher, said: "It is sad that the issue had to become party political. Our numbers have almost doubled in the nine years I have been here and there is no other church-aided school in this part of the city."

But Viv Nicholson, who chairs Sheffield's education committee, accuses Mr Patten of trying to breathe new life into a flagging policy in allowing the three schools to opt out. "The Secretary of State will soon be telling us

again that we have too many places and need to close some more schools. Yet when the LEA, with its local knowledge, moves to meet its requirements, this is what happens."

The authority insists that there are no other possible candidates for closure. The reorganisation will leave some 2,000 surplus places in small pockets throughout the city, and a rising school population will produce a shortage at secondary level in less than a decade.

JOHN O'LEARY

The boot for curriculum spoilsports

Britain's former tennis number one
Buster Mottram argues against compulsory school sports to 16

The proposal that competitive games should be enforced in the national curriculum is no more than a political knee-jerk reaction within the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority.

The SCAA is irritated by the Heritage Department's intrusion into its affairs at a time when it is in the process of reviewing the prescriptive element of the curriculum. This is an unwelcome diversion for the SCAA. To put it in a more personal context, this has become a case of Sproat vs Patten.

The merits or otherwise of compulsory school sport up to the age of 16 require careful consideration. At the moment, it has become part of the agenda for the wrong reasons. Iain Sproat, the sports minister, has a difficult brief: he needs to conjure up explanations for our sporting decline.

Politically, he has to be seen to be responding to public dissatisfaction with the performance in our national games—football and cricket—even if that means treading on the toes of the educationists.

Politicians are the first to claim success for sporting achievement, as Harold Wilson did when we won the World Cup in 1966, and are quick to disassociate themselves from failure by apportioning the responsibilities and directing the blame at others. School sport (or the lack of it) is an easy target.

When politics are taken out of the argument the issues can be discussed sensibly. The SCAA points out that 90 per cent of the 20,000-plus schools in the state sector already engage in some form of competitive games within physical education. It argues that an



Good teenage sports: but is it fair to blame schools for our national sporting failures?

extension to 16 would involve an extra cost or drain on resources, and as the facilities are in place it is a logical step. Protecting the status of PE in law would prevent it from becoming a political football, as it has been in the past, when some schools and education authorities have excluded competitive sport from the syllabus on the ground that the losers could become traumatised and scarred psychologically.

This aesthetic approach to education harmed pupils by leaving them unprepared for the competitive world at large. The SCAA says ensuring the position of PE in law would prevent any further opportunity to play politics and experiment with social theories on the playing field.

But it is the SCAA, in underlining the position of team sports within PE, merely promoting its own kind of social agenda and value structure: one of team leadership, camaraderie and collective responsibility, which sits uneasily with the individualism of contemporary society?



Buster Mottram in 1982

While it may appear that the motivation for reform is commendable, the logistics of changing the status quo would create problems which have not at the moment been addressed. It is all very well to legislate, but if the legislation is unenforceable, the position becomes absurd.

How effective would the proposed monitoring of sport in schools by the Office for Standards in Education be, when it is intended that there will be inspections only every four years, and when sport is just a minor cog in an overall

review of the school? In practice, I suspect there will be little or no enforcement at all.

How will the proposed incorporation of obligatory games within the national curriculum stem truancy from school sport? No amount of coaxing or cajoling will induce some pupils to take part. Truancy in sport is one of the great immunities to which schools turn a blind eye. And who can blame them, when parents are prepared to issue sickness notes at the drop of a hat? Aren't children these days capable of making their own choices, when they are inundated with advertising and material emphasising good health and the dangers of neglecting it? It doesn't require the nanny-state to make the decisions for them.

The suggestion that games should become compulsory for 14 to 16-year-olds is ill-conceived. Its only merit is that the issue of team sport is temporarily taken out of the political arena. But that of course can be reversed in the future. This proposal, like so many other hastily concocted ideas of the SCAA, should be abandoned.

'Dainty' engineers fight stereotyping

Engineering bodies are working in schools to boost the female intake

Last week's success for Karen Bishop, the 17-year-old awarded £24,000 by an industrial tribunal after being refused an apprenticeship because she was "too dainty", will have done little to reassure girls considering a career in the male-dominated world of engineering.

Miss Bishop, an aspiring mechanic who is now taking motor vehicle studies at Guildford College, was turned down twice in favour of boys. But she says she is now more determined than ever to pursue her chosen career.

The Women's Engineering Society says that most girls have never come into contact with an engineer, let alone a female one, and are not really sure what an engineer does. The few who consider it a suitable career for a woman are often persuaded into "softer" options by their friends and parents.

The Engineering Council, keen to increase the number of women engineers, has been running its Women Into Science and Engineering (WISE) campaign since 1984. Six WISE mobile teaching and exhibition centres, sponsored by a number of companies, tour secondary schools to provide practical experience of technology and help girls to develop greater confidence.

Last month the council organised a three-day exhibition at the Priory School in Orpington, Kent, as part of another national scheme to promote engineering in schools. Companies, universities and the armed forces put on a series of lectures and displays for 2,500 pupils from



Karen Bishop's discrimination victory is a step forward

the Priory and other schools. Unlike many women, Tanja Wiltshire needed no persuading into engineering. Now 22 and an avionics engineer, she wanted to be an engineer from the age of 12.

On leaving her all-girls private school at 16 with nine GCSEs, she joined Westland Helicopters on a mechanical engineering apprenticeship, and took her Higher National Certificate in mechanical engineering on day release at Yeovil College. She has been both technician and apprentice of the year.

Not all engineering students, however, end up in engineering. Karen Clarke, a graduate of Trinity College, Oxford, studied mechanical sciences and metallurgy but joined ICI as a product manager. She thinks women should consider engineering

courses, despite her initial difficulties: "I was the only girl in a group of 16, and that was quite hard to deal with. At first it made me feel that I was not as good as them, but in the end I finished up fifth in my year."

Jill Platt, head of the Priory School since it was formed three years ago with the amalgamation of two single-sex schools, says: "There is still a deep-rooted misunderstanding of engineering by both boys and girls. The boys and girls came with different approaches and a different ethos. The perception is that girls aren't good in maths, science and engineering. I would hope that we have conquered some of this."

"It helps a little bit if the head is a woman who happens to be a mathematician," she adds with a smile.

DAVID TYTLER

THE TIMES is among the sponsors of a Special Schools Forum in memory of the 12 children and their teacher from Hagley School, in Hereford and Worcester, who died last November in the M40 minibus crash. The proceeds from the concert, on April 22 at the Royal Albert Hall, London, will go towards a new school music centre

and sports hall as a lasting tribute to the victims. Pupils from Hagley will attend the concert in the presence of Prince Edward. Among the stars performing will be Peter Skellern, John Dankworth and Anthony Hopkins. Times readers can buy £20 seats for £15. Phone the box office, quoting the offer, on 071-589 8212.

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began today. Dealings end March 25. \$Contango day March 28. Settlement day April 5. \$Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on midday prices.

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began today. Dealings end March 25. \$Contango day March 28. Settlement day April 5. \$Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on midday prices.

Company	Price (¢)	Vol of	Nat div	Yld %	P/E
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First Natl	45

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Liabilities	63
Equity	6
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Intercon	402	-19	10.0	5.1	40.3
Real Bus	309	-18		1.7	12.9

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Water	100	95	90	85	80
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Telephone	100	95	90	85	80
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Alcohol	100	95	90	85	80
Transportation	100	95	90	85	80
Health	100	95	90	85	80
Education	100	95	90	85	80
Recreation	100	95	90	85	80
Waste	100	95	90	85	80
Other	100	95	90	85	80
Total	100	95	90	85	80

100% = 100% of the total population
 -5% = 5% of the total population
 -10% = 10% of the total population
 -15% = 15% of the total population
 -20% = 20% of the total population

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Ashanti's value to top \$1.4bn

BY COLIN CAMPBELL
MINING CORRESPONDENT

ASHANTI Goldfields, the Lomho-managed and 45 per cent owned Ghanaian gold mine, will have an imputed value of at least \$1.4 billion when the pathfinder document is released in London. Ashanti shares are due to be released in London in mid-April, possibly April 17.

A rise in the world gold price and a raised profile after analysts' visits have helped to lift analysts' assessment of Ashanti's worth from \$1 billion to a minimum of \$1.4 billion. The London listing, and a listing in Accra, follow the sale by the Ghanaian government of up to 25 per cent of its current 55 per cent stake in Ashanti. However, the listing timetable has been put back several times, and on Friday there was speculation of further delay. Not everyone in government thinks it wise to let control of Ashanti pass to foreign hands.

Chana is the second-biggest gold producer in Africa, after South Africa, and Ashanti, which has been in continuous production since 1997, is Ghana's biggest single foreign exchange earner. For the year to September 30, Ashanti reported net earnings of \$90.2 million, up from a 1992 net profit of \$60.6 million.

Last year, the mine produced 770,000 ounces of gold and is heading for 860,000 this year. Its aim is a million ounces a year from 1995. Operating costs are \$173 an ounce, one of the world's lowest figures for gold.

Ashanti will probably take advantage of the public float to raise additional working capital, possibly up to \$5 million, towards expansion. Proceeds of the placing of up to 25 per cent of the equity will benefit the Ghanaian government, which, in 1983, launched an economic programme envisaging privatisation.

After the state's sale of part of its holding, Lomho will again be Ashanti's largest single shareholder. Lomho bought all of Ashanti on a price-earnings ratio of 11.2 in the 1990s, for \$3 million, and the shares were delisted in London, where they had been traded since 1997. Lomho's controlling stake was reduced as the government acquired a holding. Stock market visibility for one of Lomho's more significant investments, which is in its books at a cost of about \$100 million, has implications for Lomho's net worth.

The pathfinder will indicate an expected price subscription range from which analysts will infer an overall valuation of at least \$1.4 billion. A \$17-a-share placing price implies valuation of \$1.48 billion; \$20 would imply \$1.75 billion. The price is likely to make the shares comparable to leading South African gold shares, now on a price-earnings ratio around 17.

Guinness expected to serve up lower profits



Only a little icing on interim profits is likely from Garry Weston at Fortnum & Mason

TONY Greener, chairman of Guinness, is set to report slightly lower annual profits on Thursday, in line with an earlier trading statement, but attention will focus on the drinks giant's prospects.

In January, Guinness rejigged its links with LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton, its French partner, and forecast that its 1993 pre-tax profit before exceptional items and after a recommended UK pension charge, would be not less than £875 million. Analysts' forecasts range from £875 million to £880 million, compared with £920 million last time. A dividend of 12.8p (11.8p) is predicted.

Healthy consumption of Guinness and an increase in whisky sales, particularly in America and Britain, should help profits. In January, Guinness sold its 24 per cent indirect investment in LVMH and acquired a 34 per cent holding in Moët Hennessy. LVMH's wines and spirits operation, while LVMH agreed to reduce its stake in Guinness from 24 to 20 per cent by June 1995.

Guinness said it would make an exceptional charge of £173 million in its 1993 accounts, covering the book loss on the disposal of the LVMH stake.

TODAY

Analysts expect a break-even performance from Costain Group at the full-year stage, compared with a loss of £149 million last time. Recovery prospects appear limited, in spite of last year's £83.9 million rights issue. The company is now focused on US mining and contracting after the sale of the group's property division and the Australian mining business. The 1993 profits will be boosted by a £68.5 million gain on the Australian disposal.

NatWest Securities predicts a slide in full-year profits at English China Clays to £65 million (£100 million). Forecasts range from £65 million to £91 million.

James Capel is looking for first-half pre-tax profits at MAI. Lord Hollick's money broking and media group which recently acquired Anglia Television, to advance to £38.5 million (£33.9 million).

Forecasts range from £38 million to £44 million. Profits should be boosted by a maiden contribution from Meridian, the ITV company, and buoyant market conditions in money and securities broking, as well as a solid performance from Wagon Finance.

Interim: Automagic Holdings, European Leisure, Johnson Group, Charters (23), MAI, Finlec, SSM Group, Caldor, Cosmin Group, English China Clays, Felley Group, George, Guinness Peet Group, ISA International, JIS Group, Merchants

Trust, Pennington, Rugby Group, Scott, Holdings, Sanyo, Ham Corporation, Stag Furniture Holdings, Telford, Wainwrights (Holdings), Economic statistics: retail food survey household food consumption (Q4), producer price index numbers (February).

TOMORROW

Analysts will be looking for full-year results at Williams Holdings to demonstrate the continuing cyclical recovery in its British and American markets. Forecasts for final pre-tax profits range from £150 million to £153 million after a £17 million provision for the sale of the engineering operations last year, which would compare with £157 million last time.

Speculation has increased that Saatchi & Saatchi, the advertising agency, may be a takeover target. It made £95 million losses in 1992 after writing off £600 million relating to goodwill associated with US acquisitions. UBS expects Saatchi to return to the black with £19 million. Again, no dividend is anticipated.

Credit Lyonnais Laing is looking for final pre-tax profits at Medeva, the pharmaceuticals group, to advance to £45 million against £36 million.

Interim: Castle Communications, Everest Foods, Paterson Zochort, Scholtes Group, Woleley, Finlec, Broadcastle, Crocodiles, Delta, Emsa, Evans Halshaw Holdings, Fleming, Fledgling, IT, Grassby, Hampden Group, Heywood Williams Group, Lomho, Medeva, Motor Group Newspapers, Res Brothers Group, Saatchi & Saatchi, Sheffield Resources, Wainwright, Williams Holdings, Wimpey Group, Economic statistics: company liquidity (Q4), construction - new orders (January), CSI survey of distributive trades (February).

WEDNESDAY

The market expects Costa Vytella, the textiles group, to report full-year pre-tax profits ahead of between £143 million and £153 million, compared with £109 million last time.

The company's trading statement, just before Christmas, said there was no reason to believe that the outcome for the year would be materially different from market expectations, in spite of generally difficult trading in the UK and Europe.

Schroders, the City merchant bank, is expected to report sharply higher final pre-tax profits of about £170 million (£64 million), according to Barclays de Zotte Wedd. Market forecasts range from

£85 million to £170 million. Interim: Enron Dual IT (20), Foreign & Colonial High Income Trust, Merivale Moore, Wesol Group, Finlec, British Mohair, Britton Group, Church & Co, Costa Vytella, CJI Environmental Trust, Chiefdom Group, EFM Dragon Trust, EFT Group, Industrial Insurance Group, A Jones & Sons, Marley, Marley Export, J.N. Michaels (Nimble), Promote, Consolidated Office, Schroders, Sleepy Kids, Spencer, Specialities, Telepac, WSP Group, Economic statistics: PSEB (February), retail sales (February), Labour market statistics: unemployment and unfilled vacancies (February) - provisional; average earnings index (January) - provisional; employment, hours, productivity and unit wage costs; industrial disputes, labour force survey (autumn 1993).

THURSDAY

Arjo Wiggins Appleton, the Anglo-French paper-making group, is expected to report lower final pre-tax profits of between £120 million and £148 million, compared with £161 million last time.

Smith New Court expects Legal & General, the pensions to insurance group, to lift final pre-tax profits to £174 million (£116 million). Market forecasts range from £162 million to £178 million, with the group expected to benefit from more

effective selling, lower costs and a strong recovery in the UK insurance market. A dividend of 20p (19.1p) is forecast.

Analysts expect the first full-year profits from the merged Reed Elsevier group to range from £515 million to £542 million, with an average of about £523 million (£412 million pro forma).

Renault is expected to show strong growth in full-year pre-tax profits to £150 million (£109 million). Profits should be boosted by an encouraging performance from the environmental and property services group's £76 million acquisition of Securiguard in the second half of last year and strong sales in America and the Asia-Pacific regions.

Competition on both sides of the Atlantic is likely to have restrained profits growth at United Biscuits. Barclays de Zotte Wedd is looking for headline pre-tax profits of £175 million (£162.3 million). A maintained dividend of 15.3p is predicted.

Interim: Altwaco, Minorco, Pochin's, Zambie Copper Investments, Finlec, Arjo Wiggins Appleton, Celis Energy, Charles Baynes, Birmingham & Midshire Building Society, British Borneo, Courtauld Textiles, Dairy Farm International, S Daniels, Davis Service Group, Dawson Group, Edmond Holdings, Fairweather International, Garmore IT, Guinness, Hadon Macellan, Jupiter Typical Group, Kwik-Fit Holdings, Legal & General Group, OGC International, Oliver Group, Reed International, Rentokil Group, Telford, Telford, Telford, Trade Indemnity Group, Travis Perkins, United Biscuits, Economic statistics: machine tools (January), French statistics for vehicle production (February).

FRIDAY

Fortnum & Mason, the Piccadilly department store group controlled by family interests of Garry Weston, chairman, is likely to report a modest improvement in profits in the important first half period, in spite of patchy economic recovery.

The company is expected to report interim pre-tax profits ahead of about £1.6 million (£1.5 million), according to Michael Bourke, an analyst at Panmure Gordon. Mr Bourke is looking for full-year pre-tax profits of £1.72 million. A maintained interim dividend of 8p is predicted.

The group's Piccadilly department store is dependent on the Christmas trading period and spending from foreign tourists. Interim: Allied Leisure, Fortnum & Mason, NM Smaller Australian Companies, Sander, Finlec: Arcolec (Holdings), Molins, Vinton Group, Economic statistics: building societies monthly figures (February), provisional estimates of M4 and counterparts (February), major British banking groups' monthly statement (February).

PHILIP PANGALOS

BAe investors expected to approve Rover sale

BRITISH Aerospace shareholders are tomorrow expected to give near-unanimous approval to the £900 million sale of Rover, the group's highly successful vehicle maker, to BMW, of Germany. BAE management expects little opposition to the deal at an extraordinary meeting at the Royal Lancaster Hotel, London, given the stock market's favourable response to the surprise takeover. However, some shareholders may criticise the way BAE broke with Honda, its long-standing Japanese partner, which still holds 20 per cent of Rover, and the loss of the last British-controlled volume carmaker to a German company. BMW, controlled by the Quandt family, faces no threat of last-ditch shareholder resistance. Shojiro Miyake, president of Honda Europe, last week said that his company expected a cash offer from BMW to guarantee continuation of key licensing agreements affecting Rover's 400 and 600 series.

BAE shareholders will also be asked to approve an increase in the group's borrowing powers. The authorisation sought is to raise gross borrowing from a multiple of 1.5 times shareholders' funds to 2.5 times net of cash. Although the management considered the 1.5 multiple adequate before restructuring, it now wishes to increase borrowing powers to a level more in line with other blue chip companies.

John Brown wins work

JOHN Brown, part of the engineering division of Trafalgar House, has won a £32 million contract in Morocco. The contract will be run jointly with GIE of Italy and is for the turnkey design and construction of a 100 megawatt power station at Tetouan, near Tangier, Morocco. The news is particularly good for Trafalgar House given that doubts over the future of some Far East contracts have arisen from the dispute with Malaysia. The Tetouan power station will be a repeat of the gas turbine based power station completed by John Brown in 1990 at Mohammedia, near Casablanca. Initially, the power station will be fuelled by heavy oil. It is expected that the gas turbines will be converted to operate on gas when a planned pipeline from Algeria is brought on stream, currently scheduled for 1995-6. Within the last six months, John Brown has secured contracts worth a total of more than £90 million.

Bond brings in £480m

NEARLY 90,000 pensioners over 65 have invested in the National Savings Pensioners' Guaranteed Income Bond since it went on sale on January 21, bringing £480 million into the Government's coffers. Premium bonds also had their most successful month ever last month, bringing in £201 million. All bonds bought in February will take part in the first £1 million prize draw next month. Total gross sales of National Savings products in February amounted to £1.4 billion. Repayments of £839 million and accrued interest of £158 million bought the net contribution to £775 million. The total investment in National Savings at the end of February was £47.7 billion.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUNDS

US dollar 1.5025 (+0.0125)
German mark 2.5215 (-0.0409)
Exchange index 80.7 (-0.5)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKETS

FT 30 share 2519.0 (-44.2)
FT-SE 100 3191.9 (-86.1)
New York Dow Jones 3862.70 (+30.40)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 20115.31 (+149.31)

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.25	2.05
Austria Sch	18.75	17.25
Belgium Fr	55.25	50.95
Canada \$	2.149	1.989
Cyprus Cyp	0.792	0.742
Denmark Kr	10.48	9.88
Finland Mk	8.93	8.13
France Fr	9.06	8.36
Germany Dm	2.88	2.47
Greece Dr	369.00	364.00
Hong Kong \$	12.28	11.26
Ireland Pt	1.09	1.01
Italy Lira	2598.00	2441.00
Japan Yen	173.00	156.00
Malta \$	0.822	0.587
Netherlands Gld	2.988	2.738
Norway Kr	11.55	10.75
Portugal Esc	271.50	253.00
S Africa Rd	5.90	5.50
Spain Ptas	215.00	201.50
Sweden Kr	12.40	11.80
Switzerland Fr	2.28	2.08
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G7 search to cure corrosive disease of unemployment

As the Group of Seven meets in Detroit for a jobs summit, Philip Bassett examines some of the issues that face the participants

Underneath the slick People-Mover overhead monorail that will today ferry delegates at the Group of Seven jobs summit from their 70-storey gleaming waterfront hotel in Detroit to the huge Cobo convention centre half a mile away, a black teenager loiters by a parked car — and then abruptly hammers his way through its window to lean in and rob from it.

Among such black youth in Detroit, unemployment stands at 46.7 per cent. But after sweeping in to the national guard airbase yesterday afternoon, President Clinton will not brush much with such harsh realities of the blasted inner-city landscapes of Detroit, where crime and murder rates, like the unemployment numbers, soar above the average for the United States.

Though the White House stressed the significance of holding the G7 jobs conference — originally called by Mr Clinton — in the collapsed motor city of Detroit as a message for the future, the closest the President came to his bleak urban mooncape was a quick trip to an advanced technology centre behind the city's main Ford factory and to a high-performance diesel plant, today, on the way back to his plane.

Cynicism about holding two days of anguish on unemployment by the world's richest nations, especially in such a world-gone-wrong as Detroit, is both easy and fashionable among the intelligentsia of Washington and London. But Mr Clinton was elected on a jobs platform (remember, "It's the economy, stupid") and his economic aides insist the issue is close to his heart — and not just as a diversion, either, from the morass of the Whitewater affair. In his weekend US radio address to the nation, the President said that the message of his keynote speech to all the G7 countries today would be clear: "We can create millions of high-wage jobs for our people, if we have the courage to confront our problems boldly."

Bold confrontation may well be vital. Though now falling in the US and Britain, unemployment stands at about 35 million across the G7 countries, and is now in social, economic and human terms topping the world agenda. "There is nothing more devastating and nothing more devastating to an individual and his family than not to have a job," says Ron Brown, the US Commerce Secretary, who will stress the impact of technological change in his conference address today.

In Britain, too, there is consensus about the importance of jobs. "Unemployment is an enormous human problem," David Hunt, Secretary of State for Employment, says. To Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, it is a "human tragedy and a social catastrophe" as well as an economic loss. Robert Reich, the US Labor Secretary, is in no doubt that it is a worldwide problem. "The old jobs are going," he says, "and they're not coming back." America knows it. "American workers have an incredible sense of insecurity about their jobs," Richard Freeman, professor of economics at Harvard, says. They have the latest jobs poll for *The New York Times* shows that as many as 39 per cent of workers, and almost half of all blue-collar employees in the US, are worried that they will be laid off in the next two years. Less than a third see a big future



For David Hunt, unemployment is an "enormous human problem"

in their current jobs. What to do about it is what the Detroit conference is all about. What America has done is to create jobs — 1.7 million in the last year alone in the private sector, 2 million forecast for this year. But many are "McJobs" — part-time, temporary, low-paid, with displaced manufacturing workers, such as Craig Miller, a father-of-four from Kansas City, who has gone down from an airline sheetmetal worker to juggling between driving a school bus and filling orders at McDonald's, for less than a third of his previous hourly wage. Europe has created fewer jobs — though they are more secure. Far fewer, in fact, and those that have been are largely as a result of the expansion of public sector work. But this, coupled with the cost of underpinning those unable to match their skills to the earnings floor created by high unemployment benefits and minimum-wage policies, is putting a huge strain on public finances in Europe, which wants to see some US

style job creation — 7 million new jobs by the end of the decade, according to Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission, who also arrived in Detroit yesterday.

"Are the advanced industrial nations condemned to choose between these two alternatives — neither of which is very appealing?" Mr Reich asks. "Either more jobs but declining real incomes and a widening gap between the rich and the poor, or fewer but better jobs, with a bigger and richer social safety net catching more and more people in it."

He believes that there is an alternative, blending both the US and the European job experiences: that, for the Americans at least, is the key objective of this week's conference. In Britain, Howard Davies, Director-General of the CBI, agrees: "I don't see the flexibility and upskilling arguments as contradictory," he says. "There's room for both."

Britain thinks that everyone else is

falling into step with it about the need for economic deregulation. "Our mission work is paying off — and that will be reflected at the conference," Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, says. John Monks, TUC General Secretary, is doubtful. "The idea," he says, "that the way to create sustainable jobs and prosperity is by driving down wages and working conditions will find as little support in Detroit as it does among the victims of deregulation in Britain."

But if Britain's G7 paper, *Competitiveness and Employment*, does emphasise to the exclusion of almost all else precisely such a deregulatory approach, the Clinton-Reich US document for the conference stresses the centrality of economic demand management to reducing unemployment in a move that makes UK ministers uncomfortable.

But though such clear policy divisions means that no formal communiqué can be issued when the G7 conference ends tomorrow, a mid-Atlantic compromise of sorts is likely to find broad favour. While the level of demand management to be proposed this morning by Laura Tyson, chair of the President's Council of Economic Advisers, is likely to be up to the political tastes of the individual G7 countries, a mixture of threats and help for the unemployed will be judged a triable recipe.

The first out of recession, the US is already started on the mix. In advance of today's summit, Mr Reich and Mr Clinton last week unveiled an ambitious \$13 billion re-employment package, aimed — Congress willing — at drawing together the shards of American training programmes into a new drive to beat the jobs impact of technological and competitive change through new skills.

Significantly, though, this new bill gets tough too, cutting out \$14 billion spent last year in America on extending unemployment benefit beyond its usual pay period. On the same day as the Re-employment Bill, too, a White House task force last week came up with detailed proposals on welfare reform, including cutting off welfare benefits from young adults after two years to force them back to work, which the President will take to Congress next month. Much of the US-Europe policy gap on jobs stems from different objectives. A substantial part of the US argument is about wages, rather than jobs, given the tendency of America's harsh benefit system to keep unemployment low but create in-work poverty. In Europe, government officials recognise that being out of work is the biggest poverty creator.

Detroit will tend to be dismissed as a glossy talking shop. Radical job groups will protest outside the conference this morning, while in Britain the Demos think-tank says today that "the political world has proven unable to offer credible solutions" to unemployment.

However, the Clinton Administration which called the summit already has its defences disarmingly ready. When asked recently by a local Detroit paper whether an unemployed auto worker in the city might be any closer to getting a job back, Mr Reich simply answered: "No."

But just as doctors recognise a cure for cancer will never come closer without pooling practices, diagnoses and experiences, so too will the corrosive disease of unemployment remain both unsolved and growing without such analytical scrutiny as this week's gathering in Detroit.

Answers may as yet be in short supply — there is no "magic bullet," as Mr Reich says. But for the unemployed from carbreakers in Michigan to the jobless in Manchester, or Munich, or Marseilles, the G7 approach is at the very least worth a try.

Forget all the talk: does anyone really care about jobs?



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Politicians do not care as much about unemployment as they like to claim. This is, to be fair, because job queues have, since the Thirties, been seen as a by-product of recession. Get your economy right and people will have jobs. Blame incompetent macroeconomic policy management if they do not. That is still true in Japan. In the rest of the advanced world, less than half unemployment can be blamed on lack of growth and it is becoming impossible for oppositions to come up with a credible elixir of alternative monetary and fiscal policies or state spending to eliminate dole queues, where even raging booms have failed.

Even now, the spur for G7 governments to focus on unemployment as an issue separate from the state of the economy is its cost to taxpayers. So the emphasis is on getting existing unemployed people back to work — important but a side issue. While education and training could make many people more jobworthy, underlying non-cyclical unemployment can only be cured if governments give the right incentives to help balance the supply and demand for labour. And if unemployment per se is the issue, persuading fewer people to join the regular job market can play a part along with raising labour demand.

In Britain, the unemployment rate has only once briefly fallen as low as 6 per cent since the Seventies. In France, the rate has stood at 9 per cent or more for a decade. In America, it has rarely dropped below 5 per cent for decades. The reasons vary, mistakes in German reunification, France's painful addition to tagging the mark, the oil-led decimation of British manufacturing in 1980-83.

There are, however, common features that could be reversed if policies were bent to that end. It is, for instance, taken for granted that big firms shed jobs and that the burden of creating both extra jobs and replacement jobs must fall on small growing firms. Why should this be so? In Japan, big groups offered lifetime employment on the assumption, hardly extravagant, that they would grow faster than labour productivity. Rapidly growing productivity would bring higher sales and if that were not enough, the firm would move into new product areas to drive growth. How different in the Anglo-Saxon countries, where growth is too often achieved by profits

from cost-cutting on stagnant turnover being used to buy other companies. And how depressing that others should crowd snugly over the cracks recession has knocked in this Japanese practice.

Clearly, the Japanese big company system owed much to the economic climate. High money interest rates are the root cause of "short-termism". Sustained low rates cut the risks of expansion and, by raising asset prices, make it costly to buy other businesses. Low inflation also makes labour, whose pay responds to prices, more attractive relative to fixed cost capital equipment. That is the best way to change the big company culture of Europe and America. But there are quicker methods. If, say, groups were banned from paying equity dividends if they had cut total employment, like-for-like, over the past twelve months.

In Europe, we raise the cost of labour and reduce the demand by taxing it

then behaviour would change pretty smartly. That's what you call an economic signal. Such crude and drastic cures would cause horrible distortions. Subtle changes, such as premium profit tax rates for those cutting overall employment, could be effective and help job-creating smaller firms.

In Europe, we reduce the demand for labour by taxing it, while giving tax subsidies to capital goods, the main alternative factor of production. Backing workers with more capital and replacing labour with machinery or software are prime ways to raise productivity. To raise labour costs and cut investment costs artificially does not, however, enhance this process — it breeds inefficiency and cuts potential output. Hardly anyone disputes that a once-for-all cut in wage rates would price more

people into work, if money demand were made up elsewhere. But it would make the working majority poorer. Even that might be a price worth paying. America, father of chronic unemployment, has become the paragon of job creation by helping smaller firms through deregulation, tax incentives to enterprise, curbing union power and generally making the labour market more flexible. America's economy created 40 per cent more jobs in the twenty years to 1992, though output grew no more than in most big European economies, where employment grew only modestly. The catch was that average real wages fell 10 per cent over those two decades. And cuts in real wages increase the supply of labour as families struggle to live.

The same boost to employment could be created in Europe simply by abolishing all employers' national insurance contributions. In Britain, that would cut the cost of all but the lowest paid labour as much as in America without the nasty side-effects. In the main continental economies, labour costs would fall much more. The tax would be recouped in other ways by abolishing capital allowances, further removing anti-job distortions, or through corporation tax, removing the bias against labour-intensive firms, or by shifting the burden to employees, which might just possibly also reduce the supply of labour. Even the European Commission has now got round to the idea that "statutory charges" hit jobs. Yet no concerned British parliamentary party gives tax priority to abolishing employers' national insurance contributions. Nor, to the best of my knowledge, does the government or opposition in any leading continental country.

To take a smaller example, legal labour-intensive self-employment is held back by the low threshold for compulsory VAT registration. This is blamed on Brussels. But will parties throughout Europe campaign vigorously in the upcoming elections to double or treble the threshold? Possibly not.

Slashing underlying unemployment is not really a high priority at all. Rather, it is an ink-blot test, enabling political leaders to posture about grand theories of deregulation or economic planning, instead of taking simple, effective measures that lie in their own hands.

Politics and trade disputes pose main inflation threat

Has anything changed to justify gilt yields almost a percentage point up on two months ago? Three things are different. The world economy is bouncier, most obviously in the US, but also in emerging markets, and even in Germany, there are signs of a turning-point. Trade tensions have increased, and political uncertainty has grown, in Europe as well as Westminster and Washington. A stronger world economy means more investment projects competing for capital. The investment boom is gathering pace in the US, and the January CBI survey indicates that it is starting here. Recovery in bank profits, visible in the US and just confirmed here, signals a less cautious approach to lending. There will be a boost to leasing, which is unattractive when banks have no current profits to offset against capital allowances that it generates. Meanwhile, capital spending to improve infrastructure in emerging nations is surging, financed by western investors' enthusiasm for esoteric equity markets.

While investment recovers, the total supply of savings is under pressure. Consumers have responded to weak real incomes and low interest rates by cutting the savings ratio, not just in the UK and the US, but even in Germany, where the ratio fell steeply last year. Tax hikes are likely to depress savings more. All this implies higher real yields. This is not yet the feared "global capital shortage", but nor is it an environment in which indexed yields could have remained at their lowest level for over a decade, reached early this year. Longer real yields have risen approaching 50 basis points from their lows,

and there may be more to come.

For conventional bonds, the rise in real yields is compounded by new uncertainties on inflation. Evidence is still limited — scattered instances of price pressures in the US, a tick up in surveys of wage settlements in the UK, where actual inflation has confounded the Bank of England by trending down. However, investors are worried, as shown by recent studies on the UK's output gap. Such concern is understandable, given the stronger global economy, and inflation scares will almost certainly continue all year. Some commodity prices, especially industrial metals, may

New technologies are eroding the pricing power of old monopolies, witness the collapse in UK telecoms prices.

Such fundamental changes are not threatened by short-term cyclical shortages of a few products. However, they are threatened by protectionism, which reduces downward price pressure from trade among OECD nations, and from trade with emerging countries. So, the collapse in US-Japan trade talks and subsequent US threats were a negative development for bond markets.

Structural disinflation is also threatened by political turmoil. Western governments are tempted to seek easy solutions to buy people off, to prolong oligopolies, and to delay change. In the UK, we have seen the watering-down of the public-sector "zero wage increase". In France, a huge handout is looming in the government's dispute with airline unions. We have yet to see the results of the political crisis in the US, but one will almost certainly be a feeble attack on healthcare costs than envisaged by Hillary Clinton.

In short, many things have changed in the past two months, making a less friendly environment for bond markets. Inflation fears should turn out unfounded in the long term, but will not disappear quickly. The greatest inflation threat is from political turmoil and trade disputes. Ironically for bond markets, such problems are best solved under sustained strong growth. So growth will ultimately help conventional bonds, but, as it boosts investment demand further, it will, if anything, push real yields even higher.

GILES KEATING
CS First Boston

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Differing views on dieting

BRIAN Winterflood, patron of smaller companies, is on a diet — or going short on food, as he might put it. So is Michael Grade, chief executive of Channel 4, but the worlds of finance and television appear to have opposing views of what dieting entails. Both men, sharing the top table at last week's PLC Awards dinner at the Grosvenor House in London, got off to a good start, with Winterflood carefully operating a personal "portion control". Grade played along, refusing a slab of chocolate cake for the sake of keeping up with him, but soon relenting when offered a choice of port or brandy. "Malt whisky," he declared, before lighting a cigar and launching into a discussion about his yacht, the 45ft *Laphroaig*, named after Grade's favourite tipple, and a tongue-twister that has triggered some awkward moments when sailing abroad. Try hailing a harbour master in the Caribbean and informing them that you're the *Laphroaig*, he told his amused companions. Grade confessed that he had pinched the name for his vessel without asking

the permission of Allied Distillers, which owns the brand, and the company has asked if they can use the yacht in publicity shots. The fee? "A case of whisky, of course," Laphroaig, naturally.

Lighter note

STILL at the Grosvenor House, how pleasant to see former funeral king Howard Hodgson in his usual high spirits. Hodgson, now in the

pens and lighters business, his trademark footballer's hairdo longer than ever, worked the room with his customary panache, physically lifting one PR girl into the air and escorting several others around the bar area with increasing enthusiasm as the night drew on. He was last seen heading in the direction of the gents at an early hour, singing: "Man who buy Ronson lighters going to make big money," or words to that effect. Given his

Eighties track record, in which he built his funeral company into a £100 million a year business, his optimism may prove infectious. And if lighters don't live up to his hopes, there are always Ronson pens — a fact slyly hinted at by his fellow directors, who gave him a MontBlanc for Christmas and a Parker for his birthday.

THE booby prize from the PLC dinner goes to the 25-year-old corporate financier from Beeson Gregory who turned up for an 8am meeting the next morning still wearing his dinner jacket. He insisted he had left his keys at the office and was forced to spend the night on his blonde neighbour's sofa. Hmmmmmm...

On the fast track

ANYONE who has been to the FI Chelsea Indoor Karting track near Chelsea Harbour will be interested to hear that the idea is taking off abroad. Mike Mallinson, who owns the venue, has been asked to design and build a similar track for the royal family of the United Arab Emirates. "We will build it indoors because of the heat," says Mallinson. "but there will be shutters opening on it an out-

door track too." Another Mallinson-designed track is due to open in New York, and he has received approaches from Lebanon and Malta. Thousands of people have tried out FI since it opened in June 1993, drawn from firms and companies ranging from KPMG Peat Marwick to Carlton Television.

Guildhall voice

ONE of Lord Owen's former speech writers has been given the top PR job at the Corporation of London. Tony Haimos, who served on the SDP and Liberal Democrats staff from 1982-83, takes up the post of director of public relations at Guildhall on April 5 — the spokesman on everything from health issues to the "ring of steel" security cordon. He joins after five years with Hill & Knowlton.

DID the print industry sales company based in Elstree, Hertfordshire, that was wound up on petition from the Department of Trade and Industry last week have any confidence at all in its chances of survival? The company's name was Total Wipe-Out.

JON ASHWORTH



Michael Grade focusing on his diet at the PLC Awards dinner — no chocolate cake but a malt whisky

Clash likely on Clinton's job creation plan

FROM PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR
IN DETROIT

PRESIDENT Clinton is to propose a new international job creation plan to the leading industrial nations, even though today's Group of Seven unemployment summit is unlikely to agree to collective economic action to boost jobs.

The President's move, signalled before the opening of the G7 summit in Detroit, is likely to anger Britain, which will see it as a renewed attempt to use economic demand management as a key tool in cutting unemployment.

Mr Clinton last night met the finance and employment ministers from the G7 countries, including Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and David Hunt, Secretary of State for Employment.

Britain is insisting on economic and labour market deregulation as the principal means of combating unemployment, but the US main-

■ Britain and the United States are deeply divided over how to tackle the rising jobless tide as the Group of Seven summit on unemployment opens today in Detroit

tains that such measures will not work without countries taking macroeconomic demand management steps on monetary and fiscal policies.

Mr Hunt has had bilateral talks with Lloyd Axworthy, his Canadian counterpart. Britain is keen to persuade Canada to support its view, but the Canadian paper for the summit says that flexibility must be accompanied by "appropriate macroeconomic policies".

The difference means that the Detroit summit will not end with an agreed communiqué. However, Mr Clinton said in an interview with a Detroit newspaper that he would present a new jobs plan to the full G7 annual summit, in Naples, in June. His statement is a clear indication of America's determination to

see a range of measures adopted to combat the international problem of unemployment, in spite of the opposition to some proposed moves from countries such as Britain.

Mr Clinton said his plan would include proposals to stimulate European and Japanese economies and ensure that technological growth and international trade helped rather than hindered employment. "Frankly, I'm going to gauge how forthcoming and how open they all seem to be at this conference in Detroit."

The conference, Mr Clinton said, should build a consensus that unemployment and "stagnant" wages in one country affected unemployment and wages in another.

But the sharp difference between the US and Britain was underlined when US officials released an interview with Robert Reich, the Labor Secretary, who said: "When you hear the word flexibility, watch your wallets." For finance ministers, he said, flexibility meant "the freedom of employers to fire people and to reduce wages," while for employment ministers it meant job mobility and skills upgrading. America, he said, was working hard on the second form of flexibility.

But Mr Hunt said: "We want a deregulated, flexible labour market and we believe that the rest of the world is heading that way."

Officials from all the G7 countries will today agree the draft statement with which Lloyd Bentsen, the US Treasury Secretary, will close the conference tomorrow.

British ministers, who have seen a preliminary draft, claim to be happy with its outcome. Mr Clarke and Mr Hunt will also be given details today of the UK unemployment figures for February, to be published on Wednesday. Ministers are hopeful that the figures will show a fall, after last month's 15,500 rise.

G7 search, page 38

Japan relents on Motorola access

BY COLIN NARBROUGH, WORLD TRADE CORRESPONDENT

AMERICA lifted a threat of punitive trade sanctions against Japan this week after Tokyo gave in to pressure and agreed to give Motorola, the US mobile phone group, greater access to the Japanese market.

Motorola has campaigned for five years to prise open the Japanese market, and the cellular phone issue could easily have been the trigger for a trade war between Japan and America. US sanctions had been due to come into force on Thursday.

But Mickey Kantor, the US trade representative, suspended the threat after Japan agreed on Saturday to open its market, and announced a 30-day period for completion of a mutually satisfactory plan of action.

President Clinton hailed the Japanese concession as a

"big win for everyone", but trade policy experts said the two countries had succeeded in resolving only a small part of the wider dispute about how to reduce Japan's huge trade surplus with America.

Mr Kantor said the deal was a step forward, as it calls for the concrete indicators on progress in market-opening the US has insisted on.

Under the deal, Nippon Iddou Tsushin Corporation will increase its use of Motorola technology by opening 159 new relay stations in the Tokyo-Nagoya region.

The accord pledges that the cellular phone system will reach 95 per cent of the market's 60 million customers by the end of 1995, and that the Japanese government will review compliance each quarter.



Stephen Woodbridge, left, managing director, with Howard Dyer, chairman

Hamleys toys with a float

BY PATRICIA TEHAN

HAMLEYS, the Regent Street toy shop, is to float on the London Stock Exchange next month at an estimated value of £40 million through a placing and intermediaries offer.

Howard Dyer, formerly chief executive, has become chairman, taking over from Rupert Hambro, of JO Hambro Magan, the company's financial adviser, who becomes a non-executive director.

Stephen Woodbridge, the operations director, becomes managing director. Mr Dyer,

a former Williams Holdings director, and Mr Woodbridge, a former senior manager at "Williams," were brought into Hamleys in 1991 after it ran into difficulties.

In 1991, Hamleys had to be refinanced. Mr Dyer and other equity holders injected £3 million and the firm's banks extended its facilities.

Mr Dyer paid "substantially less than £1 million" for a 12 per cent stake in the company. After the float, his stake will be worth an estimated £3

million. Mr Woodbridge and Michael Riddy, the finance director, own 3 per cent of shares between them.

The shop is also planning to expand through a deal with House of Fraser in which Hamleys will run the toy departments of at least 20 Fraser stores from after Easter.

Hamleys revealed that its pre-tax profits had more than doubled to £2.7 million and operating profits for the year to January 29 increased by 50 per cent to £3.6 million.

Profitable Mirror waits on Heseltine

BY MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

MIRROR Group Newspapers, still awaiting clearance from Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, for its consortium bid for The Independent, will tomorrow continue its process of rehabilitation from the Maxwell scandal years with a hefty profits rise.

Derek Terrington, publishing analyst at Kleinwort Benson, is looking for a "clean" pre-tax figure of £67 million, before a £60 million write-back of pension fund provisions that has already been flagged at the publication of the offer for Newspaper Publishing, owner of The Independent and its Sunday sister paper.

The profits will contrast with losses of £34 million announced for 1992, after reorganisation and plant closure costs of £116.5 million. David Montgomery, chief executive, has already indicated that trading results in 1993 were encouraging for MGN.

The group has put in place the necessary funding for the purchase of its stake in Newspaper Publishing, which will be between 25 and 30 per cent, depending on the level of

acceptances, placing a total of 19 million shares at 105p each, on the stock market. The maximum cost of the stake would be £22.4 million.

Mr Montgomery can expect to be pressed tomorrow on current trading of the group's newspapers, which, as well as the Mirror titles, include the Scottish Daily Record. At the time of the offer for The Independent, he said that while the Daily Mirror's circulation had been affected by the price cuts of The Sun, the other titles had been performing satisfactorily, given the general economic conditions, and the company's cost reduction programme had been running to plan.

Today's edition of the Daily Mirror was the first to be produced from the company's new offices at Canary Wharf. The move means that all MGN and Telegraph titles are now produced from Britain's tallest office block in London's Docklands. If the MGN bid for the Independent titles is approved, they too will move to Canary Wharf in the early summer.

Reporting this week, page 37

Fund managers look to equities

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

THE latest monthly survey of fund managers conducted by Gallup for Smith New Court shows that weakness in global equities and bonds last month has not produced any significant shifts in UK managers' policy intentions.

The March survey, which involved 90 institutions handling funds totalling £949 billion, found that having taken a more cautious approach to equities in the two months before the sell-off in February, there are some indications that managers are thinking about putting a little more into equities at the expense of cash.

Though less inclined to run down their holdings of European equities than last month, the latest survey indicates that fund managers continue to be much more cautious about the near-term outlook for European equities than was the

case at the end of last year. The German market is the one where, on balance, fund managers are most likely to reduce their exposure.

Compared with February's survey, Smith says that respondents are slightly less optimistic about the outlook for the UK economy, though the percentage that expects things to get better over the next 12 months remains, at 58 per cent, very high.

The turn of the year optimism about the outlook for gilt yields over the next 12 months has evaporated, though, if anything, managers are slightly more optimistic about the outlook for inflation. There has also been a noticeable jump in expectations for dividend growth.

Base rates are expected to be 5 per cent in three months (5.1 per cent in February's survey) and at 3.2 per cent in a year.

Euro Disney directors set to face the music



In the red: Euro Disney hotels are failing to draw the expected custom

BY JON ASHWORTH

DIRECTORS of Euro Disney are braced for a hostile reception this morning, when shareholders gather for the second annual meeting in the theme park operator's short and troubled history.

The meeting, at Marne la Vallée, east of Paris, will be told that Euro Disney, which is locked in critical negotiations with its bankers, faces months of continued losses because of fundamental errors in its pricing and marketing strategy. Philippe Bourguignon, chairman, expects losses to continue in the financial year to September 30, even

if a widely-dragged Fr12 billion restructuring is negotiated.

Steps to cut Euro Disney's huge interest payments are unlikely to achieve much in the short term, shareholders will be told. Hotel occupancy and spending have been less than expected, and "seasonal factors", with attendance skewed towards the second half, have had an adverse impact.

Representatives of Euro Disney's 63 creditor banks are to meet in Paris this morning. The meeting is expected to confirm that Walt Disney, the 49 per cent shareholder, and a committee of steering banks

have agreed in principle to support a Fr6 billion rights issue designed to reduce debt sharply. A further Fr6 billion in reductions may be achieved through debt-for-equity swaps, interest-rate moratoriums and concessions on royalties and management fees.

Walt Disney had threatened to withdraw financial support for the park at the end of the month if refinancing cannot be agreed, pushing Euro Disney into bankruptcy. An announcement of tentative agreement over a package is expected within days, with a formal plan likely by summer.

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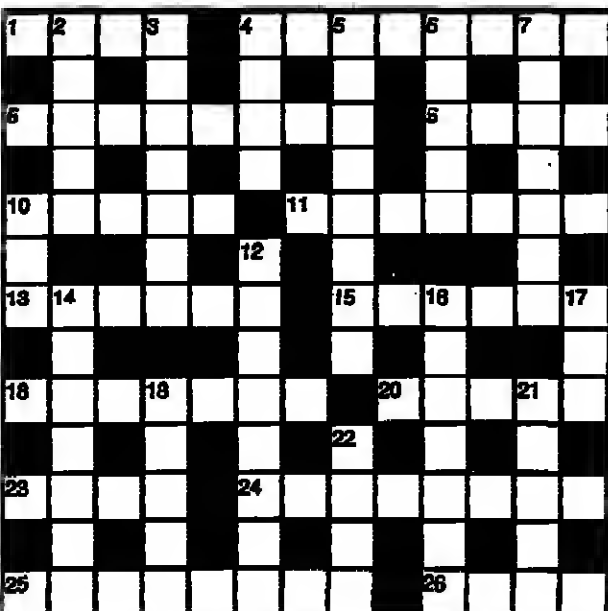
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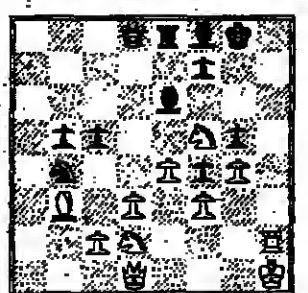
- ACROSS
- Way through mountains (4)
 - State boundary (8)
 - Incapacity for easy walking (8)
 - Hotel errand-boy (4)
 - Sustained, violent attack (5)
 - Inert gas, a factor of TV (7)
 - Narrow waterway (6)
 - Painter (6)
 - (Prosody) Mid-line break (7)
 - Picture of attractive girl (3-2)
 - Stare open-mouthed (4)
 - Masculinity (8)
 - Cultural centre on R. Arno (8)
 - Unthinking repetition (4)
- DOWN
- Be useful (5)
 - Bands of light split by prism (7)
 - Use sense of touch (4)
 - (Factory) In production (2,6)
 - Add a little more (3,2)
 - Absorb; write out legibly (7)
 - Public conveyance (3)
 - Warehouse worker (8)
 - Painful labour (7)
 - Solvent (eg for paint pot) (7)
 - Spinning toy (3)
 - Curl lip (5)
 - Surprise result (5)
 - Run away (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 111

ACROSS: 1 Chatsworth 7 Apparel 8 Let up 10 Spender 11 Quark 12 Cutes 15 Mince 17 Appal 18 Algebra 21 Nyasa 22 Trundle 23 My Fair Lady

DOWN: 1 Copse 2 Acid 3 Sultury 4 Oblique 5 Titrare 6 Daisy chain 9 Poker-faced 13 Topiary 14 Sultana 16 Factor 19 Gouda 20 Badly

This position is from the game Clapham - Meynell, Hastings 1994. Can you see how White could have forced victory with an elegant geometric manoeuvre?



Solution, page 30

By Philip Howard

- MATROSS
- A reddish pigment
 - A palliase
 - A gunner's assistant
- PARTIZAN
- The lower half of a barbicen
 - A guerrillero
 - A halberd

- BARTIZAN
- A craftsman in a castle
 - A battlement
 - A Baronet's entourage
- FREISCHUTZ
- A German marksman
 - A franc-tireur
 - Common hunting grounds

Answers on page 30